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Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 6 October 2016, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Ms. Nipomici

(Republic of Moldova)

Contents

Agenda item 24: Operational activities for development (*continued*)

- (a) Operational activities for development of the United Nations system (*continued*)
- (b) South-South cooperation for development (*continued*)

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In the absence of Mr. Djani (Indonesia), Ms. Nipomici (Republic of Moldova), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 24: Operational activities for development (continued)

(a) Operational activities for development of the United Nations system (continued) (A/69/737, A/69/737/Add.1, A/71/63-E/2016/8 and A/71/292/Rev.1)

(b) South-South cooperation for development (continued) (A/71/39 and A/71/208)

1. **Mr. Estreme** (Argentina) said that operational activities for development should be further enhanced to help developing countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The United Nations development system, which must adapt to support the development and implementation of public policies aimed at attaining the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, needed to be revitalized through greater coherence and coordination among its entities.

2. Noting that priorities for achieving the Goals were set at the national level, he said that Argentina attached particular emphasis to the principle of national ownership and government leadership. Operational activities must therefore seek to strengthen national capacities in the public and private sectors as well as in civil society. The United Nations development system should use national resources and expertise whenever possible, which would not only help to strengthen national institutional structures, but would also reduce transaction costs and duplication.

3. With regard to the important question of funding for United Nations activities, he said that efforts should be made to increase the core budget, as the financing through it helped to align the system with the priorities established by Member States in accordance with the principle of neutrality.

4. South-South cooperation was an effective tool for developing and implementing policies and actions to address the particular situation of developing countries while taking into account national values. Dialogue on South-South cooperation should continue with a view to promoting cooperation schemes that allowed for mutual reinforcement. It was important to remember,

however, the commitment of developed countries to developing countries and that South-South cooperation was not a substitute for North-South cooperation.

5. **Mr. Rai** (Papua New Guinea) said that United Nations funds and programmes must be adequately guided, in particular through the resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review that should take into account new global realities articulated in the 2030 Agenda, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway) and other relevant plans of action.

6. The capacity-building assistance provided by the United Nations, which made a useful contribution to national efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda, must be tailored to the national development plans and priorities of each country. Experience in connection with the "Delivering as one" initiative had demonstrated the value added of the coherence, alignment and harmonization of the United Nations system in support of national development efforts. He drew attention in that regard to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Papua New Guinea, which was supportive of national development priorities, and should be further strengthened.

7. Core resources, which were vital to the optimal functioning of the United Nations development system, should be increased, particularly given concerns about increasing funding through non-core resources. While Papua New Guinea would welcome a comprehensive mandate for the United Nations development system with a view to achieving the 2030 Agenda, care should be taken not to micromanage the system.

8. **Mr. Adeoye** (Nigeria) said that the report of the Secretary-General regarding implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/71/63-E/2016/8) highlighted the need for reform to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The operational activities for development should be geared towards meeting the needs of developing countries. Nigeria was concerned that funding for those activities had been unpredictable and unreliable, adversely affecting overall programme coherence, efficiencies and transaction costs. A new funding architecture was therefore required to support the United Nations development system in delivering its mandate.

9. His delegation called for a strengthened global partnership for development based on national ownership and leadership of development strategies. The "Delivering as one" initiative, which had served to enhance coherence, coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations development system should be maintained, as should the no-one-size-fits-all approach, which allowed individual programme countries to tailor their partnership with the United Nations system in accordance with their development priorities.

10. The decline in official development assistance (ODA) and the global economic slowdown could hinder the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Nigeria urged the developed countries to meet their ODA commitments, and highlighted the need for the global community to mobilize additional resources to support the efforts of developing countries. It was advocating a "beyond aid" approach to ensure the sustainability of Africa's development. As a result of the dramatic change in the global development landscape, the United Nations system, Bretton Woods institutions and bilateral donors had been obliged to align their cooperation programmes with national development strategies. Nigeria called for a comprehensive reform of the governance structure of the Bretton Woods institutions to make them more transparent, inclusive and responsive to the needs of developing countries.

11. In order to strengthen further South-South cooperation, which constituted an important platform for developing countries to exchange knowledge and develop their potential, the international community should fully embrace the conceptual framework set out under the Yamoussoukro Consensus. In particular, South-South cooperation should be regarded as complementary to, rather than a substitute for, North-South cooperation. His country had played a key role in the establishment of the Economic Community of West African States and the African Union, and was a strong proponent of South-South cooperation, which it continued to promote at the subregional, regional and global levels. Having highlighted some of the initiatives undertaken by his country in that regard, he called on all States to support complementary mechanisms, including triangular partnerships, and to collaborate with the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation.

12. **Mr. Alikhani** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that, as the successful implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals relied on improved performance of the United Nations development system, it was important to ensure that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review focused on aligning the system with the 2030 Agenda. Efforts must also be made to ensure that the governance architecture of the development system was transparent, accountable and responsive to Member States and facilitated system-wide strategic planning.

13. The United Nations development system should continue to provide coherent and integrated support, tailored to the changing needs and priorities of developing countries and respecting the principles of national ownership and leadership. The existing imbalance between core and non-core resources was a matter of serious concern for achieving development objectives.

14. Noting the significant challenges that many developing countries faced in achieving sustainable development, he said that reductions in programme activities would impair development projects and related joint activities in the field. The quality of programme implementation at country level should take precedence over any administrative considerations.

15. South-South cooperation, which played an important role in international cooperation and was a complement to, not a substitute for, North-South cooperation, must be integrated into the operational activities of the United Nations development system. His country would welcome the holding of a conference to mark the fortieth anniversary of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, which would help to develop a consolidated approach concerning the role of South-South cooperation in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals.

16. **Mr. Higuchi** (Japan) said that the United Nations development system should adjust its activities in line with the paradigm shift that had taken place on the issue of sustainable development. Appropriate measures must be taken to enable the system to function more effectively and efficiently and continue to be a major player in the development arena, taking

into account the challenges faced and the achievements already made.

17. Broad discussions on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review should continue. Noting that a country-level approach was essential given the need to respect national ownership and tailor assistance to each country's particular situation, he said that Japan looked forward to discussing ways of strengthening the importance of the resident coordinator system. The aim was not to micromanage the United Nations Development Group but to produce a useful, general and easily understood road map based on the broad perspective of the 2030 Agenda.

18. Lastly, Japan would continue to support South-South and triangular cooperation, to which it attached high importance.

19. **Ms. Abdullah** (Malaysia) said that South-South cooperation was a complement to, not a substitute for, North-South cooperation, and its agenda should be determined by the countries of the South. While closer and more focused South-South cooperation should be key in helping developing countries to achieve their development goals, countries of the South should be proactive and not too dependent on assistance.

20. Malaysia welcomed triangular cooperation, which enabled developing countries to share experiences and build capacities. Its technical cooperation programme had already benefited some 31,000 participants from 142 countries, and her country remained committed to continue offering appropriate training courses through the mechanism of triangular cooperation.

21. **Mr. Zamora Rivas** (El Salvador) said that the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda and other relevant agreements depended, to a large extent, on appropriate interaction between national Governments, which were the main implementing actors, and the United Nations development system. Operational activities should therefore be strengthened with a view to assisting developing countries in achieving the 2030 Agenda, and increased efforts should be made to develop a long-term mechanism and strategy for middle-income countries that took into account indicators other than per capita income.

22. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review would give important guidance to the United Nations

development system in adapting to the changing landscape of development cooperation and improving effectiveness and efficiency. The election of a new Secretary-General would also give new impetus to the process. Resident coordinators should have a clearer chain of command and a strengthened role, which would facilitate national ownership of development activities, reduce transaction costs and avoid duplication. The resident coordinator system should, however, not lose its essential elements, namely the association with development and United Nations entities, and knowledge of the situation in the country concerned.

23. His country was concerned that the percentage of core resources for operational activities for development was continuing to decrease. It called for strengthened cooperation and coherence at country level to improve the use of such resources, taking into account the experience of United Nations funds and programmes.

24. Latin America was engaged in South-South cooperation, which helped to promote solidarity among developing countries, and must be viewed as complementary to, rather than as a substitute for, North-South cooperation. His country called on the Secretary-General to provide greater support for South-South cooperation, and encouraged other entities in the United Nations system to make further efforts to include South-South and triangular cooperation in their activities to assist developing countries.

25. Lastly, his country remained firmly committed to the reform of the United Nations system, and particularly welcomed the revitalization of the General Assembly aimed at making the work of that body more expeditious, efficient and effective.

26. **Mr. Biya** (Cameroon) said that the United Nations development system must be coherent, adequately resourced and accountable to Member States. The draft resolution concerning the quadrennial comprehensive policy review should provide a clear and robust road map to address specific problems encountered in recent years. It must be guided by the need to: make poverty eradication a central issue in the operational activities for development; report, in a holistic manner, on system-wide activities and results achieved, including with respect to poverty eradication; strengthen transparency, coherence and accountability of the United Nations development system at the global,

regional and national levels; ensure an appropriate balance between core resources and non-core, earmarked funding; ensure that United Nations activities were aligned with national priorities; and reaffirm the impartiality and multilateral nature of the United Nations development system while ensuring that all parties complied strictly with intergovernmental mandates.

27. He called for appropriate follow-up of paragraph 88 of the 2030 Agenda, set out in General Assembly resolution 70/1, which stressed the importance of system-wide strategic planning, implementation and reporting in order to ensure coherence and integrated support to the implementation of the new Agenda by the United Nations development system.

28. **Mr. Won Do-Yeon** (Republic of Korea) said that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review should be concise and provide a clear vision for the United Nations development system to deliver as one through the presentation of concrete proposals for strengthened collaboration at the level of individual entities and system-wide.

29. Reform of the United Nations development system should be implemented through an incremental approach and be based on an evaluation of the accomplishments, gaps and lessons learned from implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. The focus should be on delivering results in the field rather than on discussions in New York. Efforts to promote system-wide coherence, including through the "Delivering as one" initiative, the introduction of standard operating procedures and the harmonization of the business practices of each United Nations agency, were welcome and should be further refined and integrated into the United Nations development system.

30. Multidimensional approaches were required to address the complex challenges faced by countries in fragile circumstances. Accordingly, planning and analysis should be integrated across each of the three pillars of the Organization's work to address the immediate challenges of conflict and humanitarian needs while tackling the root causes of conflict.

31. **Ms. Ordoñez Fernández** (Colombia) said that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review should provide for the implementation of paragraph 88 of General Assembly resolution 70/1. A short policy

review would be acceptable in the current year provided that all entities in the United Nations system understood that it must be followed, and set out policy indications. It should also reflect the universality of the 2030 Agenda, the commitments undertaken by developed countries towards developing countries, and promote coherence across the three dimensions of sustainable development. There should also be recognition of the indivisibility of the Sustainable Development Goals, and that, while the majority were to be implemented at the national level, there were others requiring joint action at the international level.

32. Member States from all regions and with different levels of development had already agreed that business as usual was not an option, and recognized the need to develop a tool beneficial to all that would foster implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It would be useful to consider other options in terms of reporting, including a single system-wide report.

33. **Ms. Elgarf** (Egypt) said that developing countries required particular support in implementing the 2030 Agenda, eradicating poverty, and strengthening productivity and infrastructure. The United Nations development system was an important partner in development efforts, and Egypt welcomed the contribution of the independent team of advisors to the dialogue of the Economic and Social Council on the longer-term positioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the 2030 Agenda.

34. The draft resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review would be relevant not only for the next four years, but until 2030. It outlined ideas and aspirations, and certain elements would be implemented gradually. Predictable financing was essential for increasing the effectiveness of the United Nations development system, and priorities should be those of beneficiary countries and Member States.

35. Noting that development was one of the three pillars of the Organization's work, she said that operational activities must be positioned accordingly. The suggestions regarding structural changes to the development system, while welcome, required further consideration; effectiveness of the system must be the overriding consideration.

36. Lastly, she said that South-South and triangular cooperation, which were important aspects of

international development efforts, must be regarded as complementary to North-South cooperation.

37. **Mr. Chinyonga** (Zambia) said that South-South cooperation should remain complementary to, not a substitute for, North-South cooperation. It constituted an important channel for the exchange of knowledge, skills and resources, resulting in increased volumes of trade, foreign direct investment and greater regional integration. Zambia had benefited from regional integration efforts; its membership in such entities as the Southern African Development Community brought enhanced market access for its products, including to the tripartite free trade area — the largest trading block on the African continent. Furthermore, regional trade policies had resulted in scaled-up agriculture and livestock programmes, capacity-building and technical assistance, and greater support for domestic industry through North-South development cooperation support. A number of projects, which were being implemented with support from cooperating partners, had contributed significantly to job creation and poverty reduction.

38. Zambia had experienced an increase in South-South cooperation from Brazil, China, India, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea and South Africa, among other countries. The main priority programmes were focused on such areas as agriculture, industrial and infrastructure development, trade, tourism and capacity-building. However, challenges existed. In the case of Zambia, there was a need for a strengthened partnership for development cooperation and support, and the possibility of cost-sharing. Other challenges associated with South-South development, such as stringent conditions in accessing lines of credit and competing developmental needs among countries, should be addressed in a timely manner.

39. In closing, he commended the efforts of the United Nations system in promoting South-South cooperation and urged the United Nations regional commissions to continue to play a catalytic role in promoting South-South and triangular cooperation.

40. **Mr. Poudel Chhetri** (Nepal) said that operational activities for development were extremely important for countries in special situations, such as the least developed countries and landlocked developing countries, particularly in the context of the changed development landscape following the adoption of the highly ambitious 2030 Agenda.

41. The development of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review should take into account four challenges. First, the United Nations development system required fundamental change, and its core functions should be clearly defined. Nepal welcomed the acknowledgement in the report of the Secretary-General containing recommendations for consideration during the review (A/71/292/Rev.1) of the need for new ways of thinking, acting and organizing. The important dialogues of the Economic and Social Council held earlier in the year had also recognized that the United Nations development system should prove its effectiveness, efficiency and relevance in the changed context.

42. Second, funding for operational activities for development should be sufficient, assured and predictable, and better aligned with national priorities and plans. It should also support national ownership and leadership. The decline in core resources for the United Nations development system was a concern and must be reversed.

43. Third, a support system was required for countries in special situations. The Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Development Countries for the Decade 2014-2024 should be implemented in synergy with the 2030 Agenda.

44. Fourth, vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters and the threat posed by terrorism further exacerbated existing problems in countries in special situations and threatened development gains.

45. Noting the remarkable growth and prosperity enjoyed by some countries of the South, he said that South-South cooperation had huge potential and should complement North-South cooperation, including through regional and subregional organizations. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review process should promote a system-wide approach to South-South and triangular cooperation as a tool for implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

46. **Ms. Mucavi** (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)) said that South-South and triangular cooperation complemented traditional cooperation efforts supporting food security and nutrition, agricultural development and national

implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and its importance was recognized in the FAO programme of work and budget.

47. The FAO partnership with China supported agricultural and rural development in 28 countries. FAO was also working with other key partners including Brazil, South Africa, Turkey and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on programmes promoting sustainable agricultural development and food security that also included a social protection component.

48. An increasing number of countries were engaging in South-South cooperation through in-kind contributions. To encourage the involvement of more countries, FAO had recently set up the South-South Cooperation Gateway, which currently consisted of 11 countries and 35 institutions. It had also launched a number of new tools, including a South-South cooperation guide and training packages with e-learning courses. A publication on the FAO South-South cooperation and triangular strategy in action provided further details on initiatives contributing to achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.

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8th meeting**

**Economic and Social Council
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4th meeting**

Summary record of the joint meeting of the Second Committee and the Economic and Social Council

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 7 October 2016, at 10 a.m.

Co-Chair: Mr. Djani (Chair, Second Committee) (Indonesia)

Co-Chair: Mr. Shava (President, Economic and Social Council) (Zimbabwe)

Contents

The changing political economy of globalization: Multilateral institutions and the
2030 Agenda

Opening statements

Keynote address

Panel discussion

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

**The changing political economy of globalization:
Multilateral institutions and the 2030 Agenda**

Opening statements

1. **Mr. Shava** (Zimbabwe), Co-Chair, welcoming the keynote speaker, Mr. Thomas Friedman (Columnist at *The New York Times* and author), the moderator, Ms. Pamela Falk (Foreign affairs analyst, Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) news), and the panellists, Ms. Anu Madgavkar (Partner, McKinsey Global Institute), Mr. Michael Plummer (Director and Professor of international economics, School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University) and Ms. Mariama Williams (Senior Programme Officer, Global Governance for Development programme, South Centre) said that following the destruction and despair of the Second World War, the United Nations, and its Economic and Social Council, had been established on the premise that global peace could be sustained only if accompanied by efforts to advance the development of all people across the globe. Having now celebrated its seventieth anniversary, the Council had witnessed how globalization could transform the world in every aspect of life. However, that transformation had not afforded its benefits to everyone, and too many people had been left to face the relentless forces of global competition alone. The current meeting would be an opportune forum to highlight policies that would leave no one behind, and consider the role that the United Nations system and multilateral institutions could play in shaping new norms and standards of conduct for a better world. Seventy years on, the fundamentals for that endeavour were now in place. In developed and developing countries alike, people hoped for access to education and health, opportunities to share in entrepreneurship and technological innovation, and the achievement of a better life through hard work. Political narratives that proposed solutions based on isolationism or tribal instincts must therefore be changed. Climate change, poverty, conflicts and terrorism were daunting challenges that could not be addressed by any one country alone. A retreat from multilateralism and meaningful global cooperation would pose a threat to sustainable peace and prosperity for all, an ideal that could be attained only by inclusive means.

2. **Mr. Djani** (Indonesia), Co-Chair, said that globalization had been hailed as a principal driver of economic growth, a force for global prosperity and a catalyst for development; his country, Indonesia, had benefited from significant increases in growth and employment as it became better integrated into the global economy, and pursued efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. However, that positive view of globalization was increasingly being challenged, as deep fractures and barriers had emerged in recent years. The global financial crisis of 2008 had impacted every country in the world; inequalities had reached record levels; many developing countries continued to struggle with the adverse effects of a global system that benefited a powerful few; issues of migration and refugees had brought new problems and pressures to many Governments and communities; and technological innovation was displacing many workers. In that so-called globalized world, divisions and gaps had proliferated, and special attention should therefore be given to ensuring an enabling environment for countries, especially developing countries, so that they could make meaningful contributions to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Given that people around the world would be looking to global institutions such as the United Nations for solutions, it was important to question whether such organizations, given their limited resources and the pressures of a growing global population, were indeed up to the task. Trends of protectionism and nationalism also invited the question of whether the current global economic system was adequate to address the myriad challenges facing the world. Through the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the international community must demonstrate that the answers to those questions were within reach, and that globalization could be turned into a force of good for all.

Keynote address

3. **Mr. Friedman** (Columnist at *The New York Times* and author), accompanying his address with a digital slide presentation, said that in the current age of acceleration, it was very important to give oneself permission to pause, reimagine and reflect. By pausing to share expertise during a series of recent interactions with an Ethiopian parking attendant at his workplace, for instance, he had better elucidated his own

understanding of the way the world worked. He believed that a newspaper column was intended to provoke a reaction from readers, and the type of reaction produced was determined by readers' value systems and their understanding of how the world worked, and the ways in which it affected, and was affected by, people and culture.

4. The three most powerful forces of the modern world were globalization, climate change and technology. Given the broad spectrum of major technological advances in 2007, it was fair to say that that year had been the greatest technological inflection point since the invention of the printing press. However, the significance of 2007 had quickly been overshadowed by the economic collapse of 2008. Humanity was struggling to adapt to the pace of technological progress, and enormous dislocations and discrepancies were occurring as a result.

5. The main challenges lay in learning faster and governing smarter during a period in which life was being ever further pervaded by the impact of cloud computing and related technologies. The new worldwide flow of ideas affected all aspects of life, through social networks and instant messaging, news stories and information, sharing and dissemination of opinions, e-commerce, crowdfunding and mobile payments, live streaming, and online music, education and design tools. Those flows had impressively broadened participation in the global economy, resulting in a world more interconnected than ever before, and clearly that trend would continue unabated. Countries that built infrastructure and educated their people to make use of connections to information and resources would be successful in the twenty-first century. It was crucial to recognize that the new globalization, which revolved around flows, entailed a shift from stocks of physical goods to stocks of information.

6. The accelerations of globalization, climate change and technology were fundamentally reshaping the world. Consequently, it was necessary to reimagine the realms of the workplace, geopolitics, community and ethics. In the workplace, the great challenge lay in finding ways to help workers stay afloat and survive in new environments augmented by technology. Companies should be viewed in terms of their human resources policies, on how they encouraged their

employees to build their skills continuously, and what financial or other incentives they provided for that purpose. Jobs everywhere were being "pulled up" in that they required not only better mathematics and science skills but also creativity and collaboration, "pulled out" in that they were being opened to higher numbers of qualified candidates worldwide, and "pulled down" in that they were often quickly made obsolete. Under the new social contract, which was proliferating to all countries, the worker was expected to be fully capable of absorbing new information and adopting new practices. Job-seekers and workers alike needed to be more motivated and entrepreneurial than ever before. At the same time, they had at their disposal a vastly more comprehensive set of technological tools that could serve to assist them in their training and professional duties.

7. In the realm of education, wealthy parents in the United States of America could afford to spend significant amounts to prepare their children to take college entrance examinations, while lower-income parents could not. In 2014, the College Board had partnered with the Khan Academy, a non-profit educational organization, to enable students to take pre-college entrance examinations and receive specific feedback tailored to their performance. Students would then be directed to a site with practice exercises to improve on weak areas, and yet another site with accelerated courses for strong areas. A third site presented college scholarships available to students. In 2015, 1.4 million American students had signed up for free preparation courses through the College Board and the Khan Academy, which were available through an intelligent algorithm.

8. Another programme making use of intelligent algorithms was called "opportunity@work". That initiative enabled students who had not completed full college programmes to have their skills evaluated. The students were given credit for skills already mastered, and were then linked with companies which were prepared to hire them. That programme was reshaping the workplace, enabling people to live above the line of technological change. People who believed that existing banks and political systems needed to be destroyed in order to survive the challenges of globalization should learn about the assistance (both human and digital) provided by such programmes, through intelligent algorithms.

9. Transformative forces were reshaping politics. The world was currently facing three types of climate change at once. Climate change was affecting the weather; but there was also a change in the climate of globalization, moving from stocks to flows; and a change in technology, an exponential acceleration. To survive those changes, resilience and propulsion were required. Resilience was needed for adaptation, and propulsion in order to move forward with innovation.

10. The expert in building resilience and propulsion in the face of a changing climate was Mother Nature. Her methods to do so were many: adaptation through natural selection; pluralism and diversity, through a multitude of species; sustainability, as nature's processes were circular; entrepreneurship, as any vacuum in nature was immediately filled with a plant or animal adapted to that niche; patience; co-evolution of compatible species, which created strong resilience; and the law of bankruptcy, where failures were killed and their energy was used to nourish successes.

11. The countries and political parties that most closely mirrored Mother Nature's characteristics would thrive in the age of acceleration. That was the reason why the political parties of countries in attendance were in disarray, as were those in the United States of America. The world needed radical entrepreneurship to pay for the safety nets that would be required, because the age of acceleration would be too fast for some people. Radical entrepreneurship should co-evolve with safety nets. The lack of co-evolution was unsustainable and was the cause of the related difficult transformation being undergone by political parties.

12. In his book "Thank You for Being Late", he had included a chapter on ethics entitled "Is God in Cyberspace?" That was the biggest ethics question in the age of rapid technological growth and globalization. He had consulted with his spiritual teacher, a brilliant Talmudic scholar, who had responded that there were two concepts of the Almighty. One was a biblical concept according to which God smote evil and rewarded good. Yet God certainly was not in cyberspace, which was full of pornography, crime, gambling, cheating, lying and trolling. An alternative, post-biblical concept of God existed, whereby God revealed himself by how humans behaved. If humans wanted God to be in cyberspace, they must bring Him there through their behaviour.

13. In the age of globalization of flows, where all information was being digitized and transited through a realm where everyone was connected and no one was in charge, the question of values had become extremely important. Humans had never been more God-like as a species; they could now achieve both good and evil more quickly, efficiently and cheaply than ever before. If values did not come to guide human behaviour once again, humans would be no more than a bad biological experiment. Values came from strong families and healthy communities. Healthy communities would be the most important governing block in the twenty-first century, would provide the greatest restraint of human behaviour and would be the greatest educator for strong values. They would move with the storm of accelerated technological change and globalization, drawing energy from it, yet providing a base of dynamic stability within it. The politics of all countries would be a struggle between protectionists, and those who embraced change, whom he lauded.

14. **Mr. Motter** (Inter-Parliamentary Union) said that people-centred development was a strong focus of the Committee. However, Mr. Friedman's analysis had been posited on an assumption that markets and technology were uncontrollable. There could and must be some social control of change, in the form of democracy. People and institutions could only face so much change. He asked how change could be mastered and brought to a human level. Instead of corporate-driven change, a collaborative model must be imagined where people had a stake in businesses and could make social decisions on production. People must be in control of their Governments. The change described by Mr. Friedman had been driven by corporations and chief executive officers, which was disastrous. The end goal of that change must be considered. Small businesses were being driven out of existence, affecting communities, which was unsustainable in the developed world. Levers must be found to master the change. Technology could only improve efficiency, but greater production would lead to destruction. The situation must be viewed in the light of social progress, so that people could work less and enjoy more, produce less and have less impact on the environment.

15. **Ms. Flores** (Panama) said that social media and technology had changed the workplace at the United Nations. The Netherlands had created a network that helped small missions to participate in meetings where

they were not present and follow multiple sessions at once through Twitter. She had created a What's App group of permanent representatives to remind colleagues of events, and representatives from 138 of the 193 States Members of the United Nations had joined that group. Some members had joined What's App to participate in the group, through which news, reminders, welcomes and farewells were shared. A special energy, both positive and negative, was generated when everyone learned of news at the same time. The power of technology must be leveraged to create greater depth, which was required at the United Nations to make informed decisions.

16. **Mr. Ten-Pow** (Guyana) said that he shared Mr. Friedman's positive outlook, because globalization, led by technology, was a key driver of economic growth in the world. Guyana was a small, coastal, developing country that relied on the export of a few commodities. Such countries were seeking ways to become competitive and share in the benefits of globalization. He requested ideas on how those countries could meaningfully participate in the global marketplace.

17. **Ms. Santos** (Canada) said that if radical entrepreneurship was needed to pay for social safety nets, that would involve innovation and risk-taking. However, Governments tended to innovate at a slower pace and were less amenable to taking risks. If it was the responsibility of Governments to ensure that no one was left behind, the question arose as to how Governments could be more innovative.

18. **Mr. Friedman** (Columnist at *The New York Times* and author) said that he shared the concerns that had been expressed. As a technological determinist, he believed that what could be done would be done. If the technology was available, people would use it for good or for ill; as a result, the question of governance and values would become paramount. In writing his book "Thank You for Being Late" he had discovered that the most important aspect of the issues discussed had been human-to-human interactions. He had told the story of his hometown, St. Louis Park, a suburb of Minneapolis, Minnesota, which, like many such towns, was welcoming the diverse and international workforce of the future. The human values required for such integration could only come from strong communities, faith leaders and human-to-human interaction.

19. He had become a journalist because he loved taking complex ideas and trying to make them understandable. The need for interpreting a complex world would increase, as the flow of information could render people vulnerable to demagogues. In his book, he celebrated slowing down, connecting with community and acknowledging the aspects of life that could not be downloaded from the Internet. He was neither a pessimist nor an optimist, because both were forms of fatalism; he advocated hope.

20. Countries attempting to ascertain the best way to participate meaningfully in the global economy must have the infrastructure to participate in the world of information flows. People must be enabled to connect to those flows, which would constitute the centre of economic development, and must be educated to a mode of life-long learning. Without infrastructure and education, the challenges would be extreme.

21. People from anywhere in the world could aspire to obtaining the best jobs of the future, which would be jobs combining science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) skills with human empathy. For example, doctors increasingly had access to vast troves of data, but still needed to be able to transmit such information to patients in an empathetic way. Job application websites sometimes combined online tests with the possibility of being connected with a live coach. New jobs were being created; one example was the task of tagging sharks so that their location could be tweeted when they approached beaches where humans were swimming. The job markets of the future would be unpredictable, but if people were enabled to be connected and educated, they would be able to take advantage of such opportunities.

22. Empathy must not be forgotten when focusing on innovation. Impressive innovation was occurring in the United States at the local level, where business communities were working together with schools, philanthropists and local governments to lift up workers and young people to be able to thrive in the age of acceleration. Such initiatives transcended political party lines. People must work together and solve problems creatively because of the dearth of resources.

23. Top-down systems that had been governed for many years by an iron fist would have problems. A post-authoritarian era had begun. Societies that were

truly pluralistic, enabling people to forge social contracts horizontally without the need for vertical government, would have a huge advantage in the age of acceleration, and not only in terms of governance and social stability. In an era when speed mattered, there would be many more ideas created by that pluralism and, through collaboration, those ideas could be turned into products, goods and services. Pluralism would provide a huge political and economic advantage.

Panel discussion

24. **Ms. Falk** (Foreign affairs analyst, CBS News), moderator, said that the panel would consider whether globalization was a driver, or whether it hurt the poor and led to unequal development. In addition, since inequality was seen as a driver of public discontent, the panel would consider whether income inequality was a side effect of globalization and whether it had failed the next generation.

25. **Ms. Madgavkar** (Partner, McKinsey Global Institute), panellist, said that the world was seeing cataclysmic changes and disruptive transformations on multiple vectors. In that context, she and her colleagues at the McKinsey Global Institute had undertaken a study of how those developments had affected the labour market, workers and households. Her research had focused on 25 advanced economies. Between 1993 and 2005, only 2 per cent of households had had flat or falling incomes, but that situation had changed dramatically between 2005 and 2014, a period during which almost 70 per cent of households had had incomes that were lower than during the previous decade. Although Governments had increased transfers to households, through such measures as unemployment benefits and higher social security, about 25 per cent of households were still worse off. While income inequality, with more income accruing to the top 5 per cent, had been a steady worldwide trend since the mid-1970s, people had generally felt that their lot would improve compared with their parents' generation. That basic assumption had come under severe challenge in the developed world between 2005 and 2014.

26. The question was why that mattered. It was, of course, significant at the economic level; however the human dimension must be taken into account. The

McKinsey Global Institute had therefore conducted a survey asking people whether they felt that they were now better or worse off. Approximately 30 to 40 per cent of survey participants had felt that they were doing better; about 25 to 30 per cent had said that they were not sure; and a sizeable 30 to 40 per cent of households had said that their situation had grown significantly worse over the previous 5 to 10 years, and that their standard of living was lower than that of their parents. Of that latter segment, a portion equating to 10-15 per cent of the total population had also felt pessimistic that things would change, and had indicated that they did not believe that future outcomes for themselves or their children would improve. If economic drivers did not change for the other people in that segment the share of pessimists would only increase.

27. The people who felt that their situations would not improve were particularly negative about many aspects of globalization. They believed that immigration was undermining the cohesiveness of their societies, and that cheap, low-cost labour from overseas was unfairly leading to job losses in their economies. The growing swell of anti-globalization sentiment had been linked by the researchers to economic outcomes and to questioning whether the future would be better.

28. The worsening economic outcomes for middle-income households had been broken down into several very important underlying drivers. Aggregate demand effects, which resulted from the great recession and the very slow recovery, had prevented overall demand and output from growing. Demographic effects, in the form of aging, which reduced the ability of households to have members in the workforce; and adverse labour market effects, which meant that even the wage share that was still going to workers was moving away from low and middle-skill workers and towards better-educated workers. Those structural, long-term and accelerating forces, largely owing to technological change, had led to income contraction for the median household. Labour market dynamics had changed and people could not keep up with skills development.

29. The question was what to do about that problem. There was no real answer, but there were several themes, all of which were important to both developed and developing countries. For too long, the focus had

been on gross domestic product (GDP) growth, GDP per capita growth rates, and unemployment rates. New metrics must be found to better reflect what people were actually experiencing. Growth must be revived through productivity, which was fundamentally important, as redistributing a shrinking pie would not be sufficient. The worst effects of globalization must be mitigated for people who had trouble adjusting. It would be important to work with and help individuals, whether disadvantaged groups or those who did not have access to good quality education. Minimum wages must be reformed, and worker compensation must be linked more closely to company profits. Transfers must be viewed in a much more progressive way, targeting those with flat or shrinking incomes. A greater entrepreneurial spirit must prevail in thinking about taxation and transfers. Finally, engagement would be key. Civil society, the state, local authorities, and business must come together to engage with the challenges at hand.

30. **Mr. Plummer** (Director and Professor of International Economics, School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University), panellist, said that globalization was associated with increases in inequality. Trade integration might be expected to reduce inequality in developing countries because they had a comparative advantage in the cost of labour, but in a more sophisticated model, technological changes meant that more skills were required, so that inequality was likely to increase. When global value chains were taken into account, the effect of trade integration was less marked. The Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership Agreement would benefit skilled labour and reduce the price of imported goods for the very poor.

31. Although trade was associated with negative trends at the global level, it would be undesirable to reverse the pace of technological change. Instead, the effects of technology should be managed better through public policies that relied on innovative thinking. As globalization intensified, innovative public policies would be needed in both developed and developing countries. Structural change was of great importance in a fast-growing global economy, but if growth stalled — and business cycles were a reality of capitalism — poverty could increase.

32. The public perception of trade was not the same as the reality. In the United States of America there was a strong focus on the Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership Agreement, but opposition to the Agreement was anecdotal, not evidence-based; moreover, the debate was all from a United States point of view, not a global one. In reality, the Agreement would benefit skilled labour and reduce the price of imported goods for the very poor, which would benefit developing countries in particular. Measures should be in place to help those who were displaced by structural change, but there was a need to refocus. The status quo would have the effect of impeding progress elsewhere.

33. Meanwhile, the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, which had been expected to be concluded very expeditiously since it involved only developed countries, was being paused because politically it was too sensitive. Global institutions needed to evolve with the twenty-first century. The most recent successful global agreement on trade had been implemented in 1995. The global economy had changed yet there were still no global rules. Some mega-regional arrangements could begin to fill that vacuum by creating those rules for the benefit not just of member States but of all countries.

34. **Ms. Williams** (Senior Programme Officer, Global Governance for Development programme, South Centre), panellist, said that 2017 would be an interesting year as the implementation of the 2030 Agenda continued and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change entered into force. The question was how to shape the future in a rapidly accelerating world in a context of large disparities. In an era of authoritarian capitalism, Governments needed to be more decisive in enforcing fiscal discipline.

35. Globalization had lost momentum since 2008, and the trend was towards stagnation and a persistent slowdown in developed countries' and developing countries' economies. There were fears of a vacuum of global leadership in dealing with those challenges. People were anguished about hyper-globalization or runaway globalization. Globalization had led to greater unfairness and a shift away from people-centred democracy and towards more one-sided benefits for the 1 per cent and international financial capital. Governments and people must right the ship.

Multilateralism had been a casualty of that dismay and questioning about globalization, yet it had been beneficial for developing countries, hence the success of the Paris Agreement. Globalization so far had been touted as inexorable but it was defective and had been detrimental to living standards, as reflected in the migrant crisis. It had benefited financial interests and skilled professionals, but not those at the bottom or in the middle. Those underlying grievances were real and needed to be addressed. The benefits of hyper-globalization had been oversold.

36. The emphasis should be on local decision-making, public policies focused on employment creation, and the creation of policy space for Governments to provide an enabling environment for growth. However, that was not yet a reality for most people in developing countries, such as the majority who were involved in subsistence farming. To leave no one behind, it was not enough to tweak globalization. Deglobalization was already happening. As trade growth rates fell, only short-term capital flows were growing, and output was decreasing. For developing countries, the trade and investment rules had not really worked and therefore needed to be changed in order to increase direct control of speculative cross-border financial crises. Developing countries needed policy space to be able to provide the training needed to build an infrastructure that could take advantage of new technologies and innovation.

37. Policy space deserved as much attention as market access, otherwise the needed institutional re-engineering and rewriting of multilateral and international rules would not occur. Economic diversification should be promoted to spur investment in public infrastructure through peer-to-peer learning, access to digital technologies and the like. Yet there was still a digital divide because of power outages and bandwidth issues. Reforms of international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group should be accelerated, and developing countries should have an increased voice in those institutions. High-income countries in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development still maintained a dominant position on decision-making on critical issues for developing countries.

38. Tweaking was not sufficient to implement the 2030 Agenda. Significant reforms and restructuring were needed to change lives, create employment and provide social protection. People needed a physical environment in which electricity, communications and other infrastructure was available so that they could be productive. In many countries, including her own country, Jamaica, the stranglehold of debt did not leave much policy space to make the investments that were needed. There was therefore a divide between countries constrained by fiscal policies and developed countries that pulled capital away from developing countries, whose financial entities needed to be able to support the financing of the 2030 Agenda, otherwise the divide would persist.

39. **Mr. Friedman** (Columnist at *The New York Times* and author) said that developing countries and middle-income countries needed infrastructure in order to connect with global flows and educate their people. Otherwise they did not stand a chance. The common denominator was that there had been a period of radical technological change and climate change. Radical social innovation was needed, because social technologies lagged behind physical technologies.

40. **Mr. Plummer** (Director and Professor of International Economics, School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University), said that taxation policies should not kill the goose that laid golden eggs. There was a need for an effective way of redistributing income without distorting markets. A progressive approach to redistribution was important, but tinkering with institutions could be counterproductive. One study had shown that, in India, trade liberalization had increased poverty, but in East Asia trade had lifted 965 million people out of poverty, according to the World Bank Group. In India, the increase in poverty was not necessarily caused by trade liberalization, but could be the result of rigid labour markets and ossified social structures that were unable to compete in the twenty-first century. Redistribution was needed but bottom-up growth was also necessary.

41. **Ms. Madgavkar** (Partner, McKinsey Global Institute) said that inequality needed to be examined at all levels. Equality of opportunity in the areas of education, health care, financial inclusion and access to digital technologies was very important. It might not be possible to achieve equality of outcomes, but

equality of opportunity and freedom of choice were key. Some aspects of globalization had enabled developing countries to embrace technologies and promote domestic innovation.

42. **Ms. Williams** (Senior Programme Officer, Global Governance for Development programme, South Centre) said that inequality had multiple dimensions, for example between persons with disabilities and the able-bodied, or people of different ages, genders and the like. Globalization offered many solutions for reducing inequality between and within countries. In developing countries, systemic issues such as illicit capital flows needed to be addressed because of their impact on Government budgets. Resources needed to be mobilized in order to address tax avoidance and tax evasion by financial elites.

43. For many developing countries, inequality was not about perception, but was a matter of life and death. It impeded resilience and response to disasters, including extreme weather events, which in developed countries primarily impacted property. Solutions had been proposed in financing for development conferences but more generally there was a need for policy innovation in developed countries, which would spill over into developing countries.

44. **Mr. Motter** (Inter-Parliamentary Union) said that managed trade had made developed countries wealthy. Trade competition used to be based on innovation and quality, not just on low prices. Free trade was therefore a misnomer. Behind the curtain of trade in goods were investment agreements that were all about capital mobility but that was not part of the original theory of free trade and comparative advantage. Capital-rich countries focused on capital-rich goods and labour-rich countries focused on labour-intensive goods; as a result, all countries moved up the production ladder. Comparative advantage was not static.

45. **Mr. Sinha** (India) said that Mr. Plummer would certainly be able to say more about the specific case of India. The Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda were intended to act as a response to the backlash against globalization, and resources would be needed in order to achieve and implement them.

46. **Mr. Shava** (Zimbabwe), Co-Chair, said that all elements were in place to find the collective will to make the world a better place. The milestone global

agreements of 2015 provided a solid foundation, and the institutions that comprised the United Nations system, as well as their intergovernmental bodies, represented strong mechanisms at the global and regional levels. It was now necessary to summon the political will to get things done, along with partners in the private sector and civil society, and other non-governmental actors.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.



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Seventy-first session

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Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 10 October 2016, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Djani

(Indonesia)

later: Mr. Díaz de la Guardia (Vice-Chair)

(Spain)

Contents

Statement by the President of the General Assembly

Agenda item 19: Sustainable development

- (a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
- (b) Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
- (c) Disaster risk reduction
- (d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind
- (e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa
- (f) Convention on Biological Diversity
- (g) Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme
- (h) Harmony with Nature
- (i) Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy
- (j) Sustainable mountain development

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Statement by the President of the General Assembly

Agenda item 19: Sustainable development

- (a) **Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development** (A/71-76-E/2016/55, A/71/190, A/71/210, A/71/215, A/71/217 and A/71/376)
- (b) **Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States** (A/71/265, A/71/267, A/71/267/Add.1, A/71/324, A/71/342/Corr.1 and A/71/324/Add.1)
- (c) **Disaster risk reduction** (A/71/230)
- (d) **Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind** (A/71/216)
- (e) **Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa** (A/71/216)
- (f) **Convention on Biological Diversity** (A/71/216)
- (g) **Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme** (A/71/25)
- (h) **Harmony with Nature** (A/71/266)
- (i) **Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy** (A/71/220)
- (j) **Sustainable mountain development** (A/71/256)

1. **Mr. Thomson** (Fiji), President of the General Assembly, said that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change were the moral imperatives of the day. Taken together, those agreements provided humanity with a

universal masterplan that — if implemented urgently, effectively and at scale — would eliminate extreme poverty, empower women and girls, build peaceful and inclusive societies, increase prosperity and combat climate change.

2. However, there were serious challenges that would need to be overcome in order to be successful. Those included slow and uncertain economic growth; volatility in commodity prices; extreme poverty; entrenched inequality between and within nations; unemployment and underemployment; climate change and environmental degradation; intractable conflicts; mass flows of refugees and migrants; systematic violations of human rights; and the denial of the rights of women and girls. The work of the Second Committee would closely impact the international community's success in implementing global development.

3. He intended to make meaningful progress on all 17 Sustainable Development Goals the principal objective of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly. To that end, the Sustainable Development Goal team within his Office was finalizing an implementation strategy that focused on three tracks. Sustained engagement would be provided to support successful outcomes from previously mandated Sustainable Development Goal events and processes.

4. The first track of the implementation strategy included the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) to be held in Quito, where the international community would look at ways to make cities and human settlements more inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable; the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol to be held in Marrakech, Morocco, which would build on momentum following the entry into force of the Paris Agreement, including by scaling up adaptation, mitigation and financing support to developing countries, and which would facilitate transitions to clean energy, and to resilient, low carbon economies; and the high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14, to be held in New York in June 2017.

5. The second track consisted of supporting existing efforts by both the United Nations system and Member States to drive strategic partnerships for implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. To that end, he, together with his Special Envoy and Special Advisor on implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, would be travelling to and participating actively in key events.

6. The third track was to back signature events throughout the year that would lay the foundation for sustained action in key areas right up until the end of 2030. That included raising awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially among children and youth; fostering and sustaining peace; empowering women and girls; and securing better financing for sustainable development. Over the coming weeks he would share more information with all delegations about the Sustainable Development Goals implementation plan and would be relying on their support in ensuring the success of that work.

7. The Second Committee would be considering a large number of resolutions during the current session covering a broad range of issues of critical importance, including information and communications technology, international trade, debt, and migration and development, as well as many other specific issues that were relevant to the achievement of the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, and to the global development agenda more broadly.

8. While all those matters were vital, consideration of the operational activities of the United Nations through the quadrennial comprehensive policy review was also critical. The resolution on that review would shape and define how effectively, efficiently and coherently the United Nations system delivered on the ground for the next four years. It would have critical implications for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as other relevant outcomes. He called on all the delegations to take an open-minded and comprehensive approach to their deliberations. Lives might depend on it.

9. Another critical issue for the session would be addressing means of implementation, which remained fundamental to many countries in special situations, including African countries, small island developing States, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and countries in post-conflict

situations. The specific requirements of the poor in middle-income countries also needed to be considered.

10. It was clear that in addition to official development assistance (ODA), there was also a need to broaden the sources from which financing was drawn, including domestic resources, innovative sources of financing, strategic partnerships and private investments. Improved capacity-building and increased technology transfer were also vital, and further South-South cooperation should be promoted with a view to exchanging lessons learned, enabling sustained economic growth and complementing North-South and triangular cooperation.

11. Pursuant to the Committee's request at the previous session, significant work had been undertaken to align the agenda of the General Assembly with the 2030 Agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals. That process, which had been ably led by the Permanent Representative of Colombia and supported by the Chairs of the First, Second and Third Committees and the President of the Economic and Social Council, aimed to ensure that the overall work of the General Assembly, from the plenary session to the Main Committees, as well as of the Economic and Social Council, would contribute effectively and efficiently to the implementation of relevant frameworks.

12. A comprehensive discussion on implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals should continue, and he looked forward to the Committee's guidance and proposals in that regard. He had undertaken to meet regularly with the President of the Economic and Social Council and the President of the Security Council to strengthen cooperation and coordination of their work. He would also be informing Member States about each of his meetings and the scope of discussions with them, and with the Secretary-General.

13. Furthermore, he would support efforts by the President of the Economic and Social Council to ensure that the next session of the high-level political forum on sustainable development would continue to build political momentum for implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

14. Lastly, he expressed his strong support for efforts by the Chair to improve the Committee's working methods, including in terms of time management, the

timely submission of draft texts and the organization of side events and joint meetings. Addressing those issues upfront should allow for adequate time to be dedicated to the negotiation of resolutions and enable the Committee to conclude its work in a timely fashion. He and his team were deeply committed to supporting the Committee's work during the current session.

15. **Mr. Gass** (Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development" (A/71/212), said that the report was prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 70/201 and summarized recent developments deriving from landmark sustainable development conferences, whose central legacy included the high-level political forum on sustainable development. The report addressed the 2016 high-level political forum, the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and its annual multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals.

16. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming the three dimensions of sustainable development throughout the United Nations system (A/71/76-E/2016/55), he said that the report explored how the efforts of the United Nations system to effectively mainstream the economic, social and environmental dimensions had acquired new urgency following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. Its recommendations included continuing: to align activities with the 2030 Agenda; to support a more holistic approach to conflict prevention; to support United Nations leadership development by connecting field leaders to global knowledge and leadership learning; and to report to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum.

17. He then introduced the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Cooperative measures to assess and increase awareness of environmental effects related to waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea" (A/71/190). The report, which was based on the responses of States Members of the United Nations to a

questionnaire, summarized recent national, regional and global activities in the areas of assessment, monitoring, awareness-raising, information-sharing, capacity-building, and partnerships and cooperation.

18. He went on to introduce the report of the Secretary-General on entrepreneurship for development (A/71/210), which had been prepared by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in cooperation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The report reviewed progress made on the promotion of entrepreneurship over the last two years, identifying best practices and measures taken in support of entrepreneurship at all levels. The report illustrated the changing scenario for entrepreneurship promotion brought about by the 2030 Agenda and reflected on the relationship between entrepreneurship and the Sustainable Development Goals.

19. He then turned to the report of the Secretary-General entitled "International Decade for Action, 'Water for Life', 2005-2015, and further efforts to achieve the sustainable development of water resources" (A/71/260). The report outlined the activities carried out through that Decade, including the elements and organizations that had been crucial to its success and key findings to be considered for further United Nations activities directed towards the promotion and implementation of internationally agreed goals and targets associated with water.

20. Turning to the report of the Secretary-General on the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy (A/71/220), he said that it underlined how continuing technological advances, rapidly falling costs, and successful deployment and use of renewable energy systems in developed and developing countries had demonstrated their potential to satisfy energy requirements and replace other energy sources. However, uncertainty over the future of renewable sources of energy remained, as oil and natural gas prices had plummeted over the past year.

21. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All (A/71/320), he said that the report highlighted activities undertaken by a wide range of stakeholders. To further strengthen accountability and international cooperation, Member States could consider maximizing synergies across resolutions that were

relevant to energy in order to promote holistic support for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal 7 and its nexus with other Sustainable Development Goals.

22. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations (A/71/265), he said that the report was part of an ongoing United Nations initiative to follow up on the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway). Considering a range of activities undertaken at the national and regional levels to advance the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea, the report also briefly analysed the possible implications of designating the Caribbean Sea a special area within the context of sustainable development. The Annex to the report contained a full-fledged assessment of the Association of Caribbean States on progress made in the implementation of the resolution.

23. He then introduced the reports of the Secretary-General entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" (A/71/267 and A/71/267/Add.1). The former document was the main report, which addressed progress made on the implementation of the Samoa Pathway and the commitments and partnerships announced at the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States. It was the second annual report since the adoption of the Samoa Pathway and provided examples of activities, including domestic implementation, development assistance and partnerships. The latter document was the addendum report, which outlined early findings of the comprehensive review of the Joint Inspection Unit of the United Nations system support for small island developing States.

24. Turning to the note by the Secretary-General on harmony with nature (A/71/266), he recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 70/208, had decided to initiate a virtual dialogue on Harmony with Nature among experts on Earth jurisprudence worldwide. The summary contributions by 120 international experts focused on how to reshape human

governance systems to operate from an Earth-centred rather than from a human-centred perspective, including a fundamental respect for the Earth and its natural cycles.

25. He then introduced the report of the Secretary-General on sustainable mountain development (A/71/256), which had been prepared with input from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Mountain Partnership secretariat, in collaboration with Governments, relevant agencies of the United Nations system and other organizations. The report underlined the importance of including mountain-specific policies and mountain communities in decision-making processes and the importance of capacity development to improve community livelihoods while also conserving and restoring mountain ecosystems.

26. Lastly, he introduced the note by the Secretary-General entitled "Implementation of United Nations environmental conventions" (A/71/216), transmitting to the General Assembly the reports submitted by the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Severe Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

27. At the request of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Secretary-General had convened a high-level ceremony in New York on 22 April 2016, the day the Paris Agreement had been opened for signatures. On that day, 175 parties had signed the Agreement, the largest number of signatories to an international agreement on the opening day since the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea had been opened for signature. As at October 2016, 191 parties had signed. The first entry into force threshold of 55 parties had been surpassed at a special event convened by the Secretary-General on 21 September 2016, when the number of parties had reached 60. The second minimum threshold of 55 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions had been surpassed on 5 October 2016, pursuant to which the Agreement would enter into force on 4 November 2016. The First Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement would be convened in conjunction with the twenty-second session of the

Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which would open in Marrakesh, Morocco, on 7 November 2016.

28. The rapid entry into force of the Paris Agreement was nothing short of remarkable and was a powerful manifestation of the determination of Governments to accelerate progress towards low emissions and climate-resilient development. Attention was therefore turning to implementation and delivery of outcomes in the real economy. The unity of purpose and integrated vision for the future reflected in the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda would need to set in motion economic, societal and environmental transformations. Business as usual would not deliver on the climate objectives, which required an unprecedented rate of de-carbonization. The challenges would be enormous but the rewards of success even greater.

29. Taken together, the 2015 outcomes defined one universal agenda for well-being for all societies. At its core, that agenda was about achieving human welfare and prosperity through respecting natural cycles, ecosystem services, and planetary boundaries.

30. The Paris Agreement, which was founded on national leadership and action, buttressed international cooperation and support for developing countries. The intended nationally determined contributions and national adaption plans were being turned into actions, policy interventions and investment plans in the context of the broader national development plans reflecting the Sustainable Development Goals. The United Nations system had an important role to play in that context: to become an agent of change and contribute to the global transformation, it must refocus and reorient its partnership with Governments as they continued to develop and implement their sustainable-development and climate-resilient low emission strategies.

31. Governments alone could not achieve all the ambitious aims of both the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals, and it would be essential for the global climate action agenda to gather support and commitments from progressive cities, territories, regions and States, in addition to businesses and investors who had embraced the opportunities of positive change.

32. One of the objectives of the Paris Agreement was to make finance flows consistent with the pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development, which underlined the centrality of decisions on investment in determining global emission trends. To be effective, climate policy and regulation needed to redirect financial flows from unsustainable to sustainable investments, which would also require reform of the global financial system.

33. **Mr. Glasser** (Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (A/71/230), said that the report contained a section on addressing the socioeconomic and environmental impacts of the 2015-2016 El Niño phenomenon. In the preceding few days alone, the experience of Haiti with Hurricane Matthew had demonstrated how the costs of disasters fell disproportionately on low-income countries. During the previous year, Member States and other actors had begun revising their plans and strategies to align them with the Framework, and the Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction had supported the establishment and strengthening of national disaster loss databases in 90 countries.

34. The open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on indicators and terminology relating to disaster risk reduction was in the process of creating a set of indicators to form the foundation of a new monitoring instrument, the Sendai Framework monitor, to be presented at the 2017 meeting of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. Many of the new partnerships established would contribute to implementation not only of the Sendai Framework, but also of other instruments. For example, the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems initiative was relevant to the Paris Agreement and to Sustainable Development Goals 1, 11 and 13 on poverty, cities and climate, respectively.

35. Both the 2017 Global Platform and the regional platforms would provide input for the relevant discussions at the high-level political forum over the coming years. Similarly, the revised United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience would strengthen system-wide coherence in support of the Sendai Framework. However,

substantial increases in investment in the United Nations Trust Fund for Disaster Relief Assistance would be required if the seven global targets of the Sendai Framework were to be achieved by 2030.

36. **Mr. Dias** (Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity secretariat), introducing via recorded video message the report of the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (A/71/216, section III), said that the outcomes of first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation held in 2016 included recommendations on a range of measures that could be undertaken by parties to enhance implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets; guidelines for the next cycle of national reporting; and recommendations on enhancing the effectiveness of the Convention protocols.

37. The nineteenth and twentieth meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice had been convened in 2015 and 2016, respectively, and had proposed recommendations on a number of issues with a view to halting biodiversity loss, improving ecosystem resilience, enhancing the provision of ecosystem services, mitigating and adapting to climate change and improving human well-being, while reducing environmental risks and scarcities.

38. The report also included detailed information on other programmes and initiatives undertaken under the Convention and its protocols over the past year, including the progress achieved in the implementation of the Strategic Plan and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Effective follow-up to the 2030 Agenda was essential; the priority themes for the thirteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biodiversity would include integrating and mainstreaming biodiversity across all sectors.

39. **Ms. de Caen** (Deputy Director, Regional Bureau for Arab States, United Nations Development Programme) introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the oil slick on Lebanese shores (A/71/217), which provided an update on the progress made to give effect to the successive resolutions adopted by the General Assembly concerning the environmental disaster caused in 2006 by the destruction of oil storage tanks near the Jiyeh power plant in Lebanon. She said that the Government of the

Syrian Arab Republic had provided documents with a view to reassessing the environmental impact of the spill in April 2016. However, a review by the United Nations Environment Programme had concluded that those documents did not offer new findings or scientifically significant data that differed so substantially from the data used in the original study that a change in the assessment would be warranted. In June 2016, the European Union, in the framework of its grant to the Government of Lebanon, signed in 2015, for the protection and sustainable development of maritime resources in Lebanon, had awarded a contract for the treatment and disposal of the remaining solid waste from the 2006 oil spill. She noted that the Government of Israel had not assumed responsibility for the compensation requested, and that the Secretary-General had again invited the international donor community to contribute to the Eastern Mediterranean Oil Spill Restoration Trust Fund, which had received no contributions to date.

40. **Mr. Ahmad** (Deputy Director, New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme), introducing the report of the second session of the United Nations Environmental Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (A/71/25), said that the report reflected the deliberations of more than 120 ministerial level representatives, as well as participants from civil society, academia, business and the scientific community who had met in Nairobi in May 2016 to consider the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda. The session had adopted 25 resolutions, which covered key issues concerning, inter alia: education; management of natural resources; disposal of chemical and other forms of waste; marine and wildlife protection; and protection of the environment in areas of conflict. While the report particularly highlighted resolution 2/5 adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly and entitled "Delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", the overall focus during the session had been on the intrinsic linkages between a healthy environment, human well-being and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

41. Air pollution had been identified as the world's largest single environmental health risk, with some 7 million people worldwide dying prematurely every year from exposure to poor air quality. In some developing countries, preparing a meal was a major

risk due to indoor air pollution, which claimed about 4.3 million deaths a year, mostly of women and children. Outdoor air pollution also disproportionately affected the poor, who lacked means of protection. Moreover, exposure to chemicals and harmful waste, addressed in resolution 2/7 of the United Nations Environment Assembly and covered by a number of Sustainable Development Goals, affected the daily lives of 64 million people living in informal settlements. Exposure to asbestos and lead alone accounted for 107,000 and 654,000 deaths each year respectively.

42. The United Nations Environment Assembly had also adopted resolution 2/20 on the proposed medium-term strategy for 2018-2021 and programme of work and budget for 2018-2019, which identified seven priority areas, each with an outcome map and a specific goal aligned with the 2030 Agenda. The overarching aim was to increase environmental resilience while linking sustainable development to socioeconomic benefits. That outcome reflected the vision agreed at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), which had strengthened the environmental pillar of the framework for sustainable development.

43. Turning to the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the global assessment of sand and dust storms (A/71/376) pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/195, he said that the recommendations contained in that assessment, developed in conjunction with the World Meteorological Organization and the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, were aimed at predicting such events and reducing their impact, in line with the 2030 Agenda.

44. Lastly, noting that the United Nations Environment Assembly had reviewed its own cycle, he said that the Assembly had decided to hold its regular sessions in odd-numbered years, beginning with its third session in December 2017, in Nairobi, Kenya.

45. **Mr. Bukuru** (Chief, New York Liaison Office of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification secretariat), delivering a statement on behalf of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification secretariat, said that, after taking into account political and social instability, it was environmental degradation and

desertification in particular that were the driving forces behind the forced migration of nearly a billion people. The vast majority of migrants now came from the driest areas of Africa, Asia and, to a lesser extent, Central America. Many were also vulnerable to obscurantist and violent ideologies such as that of Boko Haram. The goal of leaving no one behind established by the 2030 Agenda therefore targeted precisely that population, whose countries of origin were plagued by land degradation, desertification and drought.

46. The eradication of poverty was the overarching goal of sustainable development; it was therefore critical for countries hoping to meet target 15.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2018 to strengthen their capacities and reset their national priorities in line with the principle of land degradation neutrality. Fortunately, more than 100 countries had agreed to voluntary targets. In that regard, the Changwon initiative of the Republic of Korea and the Ankara Initiative established by the Convention's Turkish presidency were particularly to be commended.

47. In the context of climate change and unsustainable development practices, scientists were predicting an increase in the frequency and length of future droughts, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, where rain-fed agriculture represented 95 per cent of the land under cultivation. It was therefore high time to transition from a reactive to a proactive approach to droughts. He particularly wished to congratulate Namibia, one of the world's driest countries, for hosting the African Drought Conference in August 2016, which had considered drought-related early warning systems, risk assessment and risk reduction measures.

48. Turning to the note by the Secretary-General on the implementation of United Nations environmental conventions (A/71/216), he said that a number of important measures had been established since ratification of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, including at the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties to that Convention, held in Ankara in October 2015. Monitoring mechanisms on land cover, land productivity and carbon stocks had also been adopted by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biodiversity.

Such links across those three conventions exemplified the kinds of synergies that would harmonize system-wide efforts to promote sustainable development.

49. In addition to detailed information on the specific measures taken to advance target 15.3, which sought to achieve a world without land degradation, a World Day to Combat Desertification had been observed in June 2016 in Beijing, with the participation of the Secretary-General and the Prime Minister of China, among other high level officials. He welcomed the commitment of China to combat desertification and drought and its offer to host the next Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in September 2017.

50. Lastly, he urged the Committee to view land degradation neutrality as an accelerator for the achievement of other Sustainable Development Goals. Donors and international organizations should be encouraged to provide sufficient financial support to ensure its timely attainment.

51. **Ms. Chan** Yuping (Special Policy Advisor, New York Office of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) introduced the note by the Secretary-General entitled "Implementation of World Wildlife Day" (A/71/215), transmitting the report prepared by the secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. She said that the Office had worked closely with the secretariat to organize the global observance of World Wildlife Day over the previous three years, and several achievements were worth noting. First, the designation of the Day had been widely welcomed, and it had quickly become the most important annual global event for wildlife conservation. Second, the Day was invaluable in promoting public awareness of the importance of conservation of ecosystems, people and economies; it provided an opportunity for discussion and debate on topical issues, served to foster robust new partnerships and cooperation, and increase political will to protect wildlife. Third, the celebration of the Day in 2015 had paved the way for the adoption of a resolution on tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife. Fourth, at the recent seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, the importance of the Day had once again been acknowledged by the States Parties, and a new resolution had been adopted that

called on them to improve the enforcement of wildlife protection laws, reduce demand for illegally traded wild animals and plants, and recognize the multifaceted contributions of wildlife to the livelihoods of poor rural communities.

52. **The Chair** invited the Committee to engage in a general discussion on the item.

53. **Mr. Shilla** (United Republic of Tanzania), drawing attention to the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 70/206 (A/71/216, section II), said that he wished to know more about how land degradation neutrality could accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and how the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification could be a dependable instrument in addressing drought.

54. **Mr. Bukuru** (Chief, New York Liaison Office of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification secretariat) responded that most people left behind were those living in arid lands, where there was a concentration of hunger, poverty and migration, and where women bore the brunt of land degradation and desertification. Investment in helping those billions of people would help to achieve security, poverty eradication, the empowerment of women as agents of change in degraded areas, and an improvement in children's health. Investment would yield quick returns, and empowerment of communities affected by land degradation and drought would also improve both ecosystems and the living conditions of affected populations. Land degradation neutrality would therefore accelerate the achievement of several Sustainable Development Goals.

55. The United Republic of Tanzania, for example, had recently experienced such severe drought that the response of the international community was no longer viable or effective. Proactive investment in early warning systems and vulnerability assessments would enable countries in similar situations to emphasize protection rather than recovery. The affected regions, populations and institutions needed to be prepared to deal with more frequent droughts. There was also a need for cooperation and sharing of experiences and success stories. Well planned and coordinated drought action had a positive effect across sectors and borders, so that the poorest and most vulnerable parts of society would benefit the most. It was therefore time to invest

in proactive policies to address the scourge of drought and build resilience to drought.

56. **Ms. Pamaranon** (Thailand), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, reiterated the Group's unwavering commitment to work tirelessly for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda, reaffirmed all of the principles adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and further reaffirmed that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda should be guided by the principles laid down in paragraph 74 of that Agenda.

57. While the preceding year's four major conference outcomes were all related to the work of the Second Committee, she said that the real work of translating those ambitious visions into concrete actions remained was still ahead. In that context, the Group first wished to highlight that, in order to leave no one behind, poverty eradication in all its forms and dimensions remained an essential requirement for sustainable development. Second, the universality of the 2030 Agenda should not eclipse the challenges and needs of developing countries, especially those in special situations, or the specific challenges facing middle-income countries, countries in conflict or post-conflict situations or those under foreign occupation. Third, implementing the 2030 Agenda at all levels required a revitalized global partnership, with North-South cooperation as the main channel for development cooperation, and the full implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 17. Fourth, technology was a key means of implementation and an important lever of change for achieving sustainable development.

58. During the current session, the Group would strive to build on the progress already achieved through forward-looking and action-oriented draft resolutions that were aligned with the 2030 Agenda. Furthermore, while that Agenda should remain the Committee's primary focus, it was also vital to continue implementing existing sustainable development commitments, including under Agenda 21, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the outcome document of Rio+20.

59. Given the particularities and vulnerabilities of small island developing States, the Group reiterated the

importance of the Samoa Pathway as a precondition for the successful attainment of the 2030 Agenda by that group of countries. Similarly, the Sendai Framework had established a valuable road map for developing countries, which risked losing their development gains to unpredictable natural disasters and health crises.

60. The nexus of climate change and other forms of environmental degradation and biodiversity loss posed a serious threat to sustainable development. Such challenges must be addressed through a combination of existing mechanisms, including the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Environmental Assembly and the Paris Agreement, which would shortly enter into force.

61. The Group was also striving to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. It therefore stressed the need to promote clean and renewable energy as well as institutional arrangements to follow up on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 7. In that context, the Group noted that there were areas and Goals that were not covered by the General Assembly or the Economic and Social Council, or were partly covered elsewhere in the United Nations system. In the future, building on the new sustainable development framework, such emerging and relevant issues could become new items on the agenda of the Second Committee. Those could include overarching issues in the Goals, such as infrastructure, water, energy, industrialization, and sustainable consumption and production.

62. The relevance and impact of the Second Committee's work had expanded and was becoming more inclusive and cross-cutting than ever. As a universal norm-setting body of the United Nations, the Committee had a central role to play in promoting sustainable development.

63. **Mr. Suan** (Myanmar), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that ASEAN was committed to maintaining and enhancing its partnership with the United Nations. That had been clearly demonstrated by its adoption of a new five-year plan of action for 2016 to 2020 between ASEAN and the United Nations, adopted at the eighth ASEAN-United Nations Summit held on 7 September 2016 in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic; and by the meeting of ASEAN Foreign Ministers with

the United Nations Secretary-General and the President of the current session of the General Assembly, held on 24 September 2016 at Headquarters in New York, at which agreement had been reached on establishing a roadmap to guide the alignment of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 with the 2030 Agenda.

64. A holistic approach was needed for the successful implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and the 169 targets. In that regard, added value would be gained from strengthened partnerships at the regional and global levels in which civil society, academia and the business sector were included. For its part, ASEAN had recently made notable progress in the energy and education sectors. For example, it had commenced the initial implementation of the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation 2016-2020, which would make a significant difference in energy security and contribute to the attainment of the development goals in an economically and environmentally sustainable manner. Similarly, the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Education for Out-of-School Children and Youth, adopted at the twenty-eighth ASEAN Summit held in Vientiane on 6 September 2016, aimed to foster a more systematic and coherent approach to ensure inclusive and quality education for all and lifelong learning under Sustainable Development Goal 4.

65. However, increasing health challenges that transcended national borders were a cause for concern, especially in the context of implementing the 2030 Agenda. ASEAN therefore welcomed the recent adoption by the General Assembly of the Political Declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on antimicrobial resistance. Antimicrobial resistance had become one of the biggest threats to global health, as it had the capacity to kill millions of people each year.

66. ASEAN was also concerned by the growing frequency and intensity of natural disasters as a result of climate change. It was committed to addressing such challenges, including through the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response, adopted in 2005, and the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance, established in 2011 in Bali, Indonesia.

67. Lastly, ASEAN was a region rich in biodiversity. The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity in the Philippines

and the ASEAN Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 would complement the efforts of its member States to achieve Sustainable Development Goals 14 and 15 regarding the conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine resources and terrestrial ecosystems.

68. **Mr. Sareer** (Maldives), speaking on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, welcomed the focus on the Samoa Pathway in the agenda item under consideration as an important opportunity to highlight the unique vulnerabilities and challenges facing small island States. Recalling that members of the Alliance had actively contributed to the 2016 high-level political forum, he said that it had provided an important platform for small island States to share best practices and identify synergies and new solutions. Similarly, the Small Island Developing States Partnership Framework launched during the seventieth session of the General Assembly had created a valuable new instrument to facilitate dialogue and cooperation between small island States and their partners.

69. Nevertheless, the report of the Secretary-General on the Samoa Pathway (A/71/267) showed that, despite three Programmes of Action whose mandates had almost doubled over the years, there had not been commensurate support for their implementation. There was a clear need for improved coordination and coherence between the Small Island Developing States Unit within the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the corresponding Unit within the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. More details were also needed on the Inter-Agency Consultative Group on Small Island Developing States.

70. The effects of climate change, including rising sea levels, increasingly extreme weather events and ocean acidification, posed a threat not simply to the development of small island developing States but to their very survival. While the Paris Agreement would soon enter into force, it would be insufficient without action on mitigation and adaptation. The need for effective disaster risk reduction was also paramount, inasmuch as small island developing States were disproportionately impacted by natural disasters. The catastrophic weather events of 2016, including cyclones, flooding, hurricanes and drought, showed

that gains in development would be vulnerable to reversal without expanded investment in resilience, monitoring and prevention, and increased efforts in preparedness and response. Hurricane Matthew, which had caused some 900 deaths in Haiti and significant damage to infrastructure on that island and elsewhere in the Caribbean, was a prime example.

71. In that connection, the transition to renewable energy was vital for mitigating climate change. Such a shift would not only help countries move to low-carbon economies and provide new areas of technological investment and innovation but would also reduce the dependence of small island States on costly imported fossil fuels. However, despite adopting new regulatory and policy approaches, such countries lacked the requisite funding, infrastructure and capacity to act independently.

72. It was therefore critical for the 2030 Agenda to be adopted as the guiding framework not only by small island developing States but also by the United Nations system as a whole, including international financial institutions. Indeed, unless all international organizations aligned their support programmes with the terminology and categories of that Agenda, the negotiations achieved over the previous two years could not be successfully implemented. All Member States should appreciate the need for serious change over the coming 14 years in order to realize "the future we want".

73. **Mr. Marshall** (Barbados), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that the entry into force of the Paris Agreement would be the fastest of any international agreement adopted by the United Nations. However, as adequate financing, including new sources of funding, would be necessary to support efforts to combat climate change, CARICOM called for resource mobilization as well as action on the pledges made to the Green Climate Fund. Simplified procedures that would best enable small island developing States to access funding must also be established.

74. His delegation called upon the international community to offer assistance to the Bahamas, Haiti and Jamaica, as those countries had been severely impacted by Hurricane Matthew. Natural disasters were a reminder of the perpetual threat that small island and low-lying coastal developing States faced

due to the adverse effects of climate change, threats which would significantly undermine those countries' efforts at poverty eradication and sustainable development. The approximately 390 natural disasters suffered by Caribbean countries between 1980 and 2015 had caused gross domestic product losses of over 2 per cent per annum.

75. The Samoa Pathway had highlighted the unique and particular vulnerabilities of small island developing States; some of the issues that needed to be tackled were debt relief, non-communicable diseases, poverty eradication, the environment and climate change adaptation and mitigation. CARICOM urged the Second Committee to ensure full and systematic support for the implementation of the Samoa Pathway, its annual review and its future midterm review. The Sendai Framework also gave the international community the means to promote coherent and integrated efforts to strengthen national and regional disaster risk reduction programmes through enhanced international cooperation.

76. CARICOM called on the international community to continue to support the biennial resolution on the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea, including through the provision of finance, technological support and capacity-building; it also sought to have the Caribbean Sea recognized as a special area.

77. Lastly, CARICOM remained fully committed to the three goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity: conservation, sustainable use, and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of biodiversity; and to strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the leading global environment authority.

78. **Mr. Cortorreal** (Dominican Republic), speaking on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), said that despite the important progress made, poverty, inequality and growing economic, social and environmental challenges must be addressed in order to help developing countries achieve sustainable development, including the most vulnerable countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and middle-income countries. The eradication of poverty in all its

forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, was indispensable for sustainable development.

79. The implementation of and follow-up to the 2030 Agenda required the unequivocal commitment of the international community as a whole; ODA would continue to play an important role in that regard. Developed countries should honour their long-standing ODA commitments, including by establishing binding timelines for their delivery and for other forms of North-South cooperation. Moreover, South-South and triangular cooperation had a particular and differentiated role to play as a complement to, but not as a substitute for, North-South cooperation.

80. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda had recognized that it was necessary to address the complex and diverse needs of middle-income countries, including through multidimensional poverty measures, continuing ODA and other forms of concessional finance. The high-level political forum was the key organ of the United Nations system for the monitoring and review of the 2030 Agenda.

81. The regional dimension was important in sustainable development; linkages between the high-level political forum, regional commissions and other relevant regional bodies should therefore be strengthened. The importance of participation by civil society and other stakeholders should be recognized, while taking into account national plans and policies. With regard to financing for development, CELAC supported the revitalization of the global partnership for development and stressed that sustainable development must be tackled through an integrated and holistic approach.

82. CELAC rejected the application of all unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impeded the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries. National capacity-building must be country-driven, reflecting national needs, priorities and sustainable development strategies. Greater integration and coherence across the United Nations development system was needed to avoid a fragmented approach to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

83. The upcoming quadrennial comprehensive policy review should take action on the longer-term

positioning of the United Nations development system and provide strategic guidance to Member States regarding the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

84. *Mr. Díaz de la Guardia (Spain), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

85. **Mr. Islam** (Bangladesh), speaking on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries, said that national ownership and leadership were vitally important for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. For least developed countries, however, international development cooperation was also essential to ensure that no one was left behind. Consequently, the international community must deliver on its commitments to least developed countries as stipulated in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, while the United Nations system must further strengthen its normative and operational support to those countries. In turn, the high-level political forum should remain the central platform for following up on and monitoring the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Moreover, during the forum, focused and evidence-based discussions should be held on the special challenges faced by least developed countries.

86. The entry into force of the Paris Agreement was a major breakthrough that should encourage the international community to reaffirm its commitment to creating a net-zero carbon economy by the second half of the century. Although least developed countries were not responsible for climate change, they were the worst affected. As adequate resources and access to technology were essential for them to address climate change, the Green Climate Fund should make available all necessary resources, with the goal of mobilizing \$100 billion per year by 2020. The allocation of adaptation and mitigation funds should supplement ODA in a fair, equitable and proportional fashion.

87. Desertification, land degradation and drought continued to hamper the sustainable development efforts of least developed countries; the loss of fertile land, often the only asset of poor communities, had increased poverty and food insecurity levels. A billion hectares in least developed countries were affected by desertification in Africa, leading to estimated losses of \$9 billion a year. Furthermore, millions had already been uprooted from their traditional lands as a result of land degradation and desertification, which often sparked armed conflicts and contributed to political

instability, starvation and social breakdown in the region. Increased international support was therefore essential to address such challenges for least developed countries.

88. Disasters posed one of the biggest risks of derailing global human progress in the coming decades. A transformative change, as contained in the Sendai Framework, was required to effectively manage and mitigate disasters. The decision to conduct an in-depth analysis of crisis mitigation and resilience-building for least developed countries was therefore welcome. Support would be needed from all Member States to establish a crisis mitigation and resilience-building mechanism for least developed countries.

89. As more than half of the 1.3 billion people worldwide who lacked access to electricity lived in least developed countries, access to affordable energy was a fundamental challenge for most of those countries, where about 75 per cent of people lacked access to electricity and 91 per cent to modern fuels. Without affordable and sustainable energy, least developed countries could not structurally transform their economies. Those countries would need to make remarkable progress to ensure access to modern energy services for all by 2030, including by significantly upgrading their supply, transmission and distribution infrastructures and technologies.

90. **Ms. Singh** (Australia), speaking also on behalf of Canada and New Zealand, recalled that 2015 had seen a number of important milestones, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement; that cooperation with small island developing States, least developed countries and landlocked developing countries had been scaled up through the adoption of a number of specific agreements; and that Habitat III would shortly be held in Ecuador to adopt the New Urban Agenda, which was based on the belief that the quest for a sustainable future would increasingly be won or lost in the world's cities.

91. Nevertheless, she said that sustainable development would not be achieved if half of the world's population was left behind. Hence the importance of advancing gender equality so that women and girls were fully empowered and could live free from the fear of discrimination, coercion and violence, with agency over their bodies and lives.

Women and girls must be meaningfully engaged as stakeholders and decision-makers who were able to contribute to, and benefit from, the development of their communities and countries.

92. Australia, Canada and New Zealand were committed to a sustainable future that balanced the economic, social and environmental pillars to achieve tangible results. However, development challenges could not be solved by Governments alone: citizens, non-governmental organizations and the private sector must also be engaged. The United Nations system must work coherently to support national priorities, responding flexibly to the needs of individual countries. The Second Committee had an important role to play in that regard. It must avoid any action that moved backwards, reopened old debates or renegotiated already agreed texts. The Committee was at a crossroads: it could either catalyse action for the implementation of universally agreed frameworks or risk declining into ineffectiveness and irrelevance.

93. **Mr. Parenti** (Observer for the European Union), speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States, said that the 2030 Agenda required a paradigm shift in the working methods of the Second Committee. In particular, the treatment of the agenda item on sustainable development must be reconsidered, as the current situation made it challenging for all delegations to give appropriate attention to the important issues and resolutions under consideration. There was no need for a substantive resolution on Agenda 21, for example, as technical updates would suffice where substantive discussions had taken place elsewhere. Similarly, it was not necessary to have a resolution on Habitat III in the Second Committee as such matters should be discussed in Ecuador at the forthcoming Conference.

94. Following ratification by the European Union, the 55 per cent emission threshold had been crossed, thus triggering the entry into force of the Paris Agreement on 4 November 2016. Nearly 190 countries had made commitments under the Paris Agreement, including plans to curb greenhouse gas emissions; many countries had also developed their first comprehensive strategies to move towards a more sustainable future. The Paris Agreement defined climate change as an urgent and potentially irreversible threat to human societies and the planet, which was especially true for

the countries most vulnerable to the negative impact of climate change, such as small island developing States. In addition to Sustainable Development Goal 13, there were 12 other Goals involved in taking action on climate change. Thus, through the Paris Agreement, the international community had committed itself to binding obligations to transition towards a low-carbon, resource-efficient and climate-resilient economy.

95. The European Union and its member States had long been committed to international efforts to tackle climate change and set an example through robust policy changes at home. New legislation would be adopted to reduce emission in member States by at least 40 per cent by 2030 and all countries should join in that collective effort. Projects that allowed for the swift implementation of renewable energies would also be supported.

96. The European Union, which was the largest contributor of climate finance to developing countries and the world's largest aid donor, remained committed to contributing its share towards the developed countries' goal of jointly mobilizing \$100 billion per year by 2020, and which had been extended up to 2025 in the Paris Agreement. The funding would come from a wide variety of public and private, bilateral and multilateral sources. Some 20 per cent of the 2014-2020 budget of the European Union would be spent on climate action, with around €200 million allocated to disaster risk reduction projects between 2014 and 2020. The European Investment Bank also provided some €2 billion per year in climate finance to developing countries, and planned to increase the proportion of its external climate finance activity to 35 per cent by 2020.

97. Investments must shift away from fossil fuels to a low-carbon path that continued to support economic growth and sustainable development. Other multilateral frameworks should also be aligned with the goals of the Paris Agreement. The landmark agreement reached by the International Civil Aviation Organization Assembly was therefore welcome. Under that agreement, flights between 65 countries, including all European Union member States, would be covered by a global market-based measure to offset carbon emissions from 2021. Similar measures must be taken on shipping.

98. Lastly, the European Union welcomed the important resolutions adopted at the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, held in May 2016. They cut across most of the Sustainable Development Goals on issues such as sustainable consumption and production, oceans, climate, ecosystems and human health, and must be integrated into and followed up on by the United Nations system.

99. **Ms. Bajanã** (Nicaragua), speaking on behalf of the Central American Integration System, said that her region was involved in a dynamic integration process and that the universal nature of the 2030 Agenda required countries to continue strengthening sustainability policies and practices. Sustainable development was vitally important for their countries, which, owing to their shared challenges, were undertaking joint efforts to eradicate poverty, combat climate change, strengthen public security and fully restore citizens' rights, among other actions. In that regard, local governments played an active and crucial role.

100. Her region was increasingly affected by natural disasters, both in number and frequency, which in turn compromised food security and general well-being. With regard to disaster prevention, countries within the Integration System had been working together to undertake and follow up on actions aimed at managing the risks of natural disasters, combating the effects of climate change and protecting the environment, including through engagement with families and communities and by fostering the support of the private sector and the international community. Through the Coordination Centre for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America, the countries of the Integration System had agreed on a mandate to reduce disaster risk and mitigate the ensuing human and economic losses.

101. Despite such national and regional efforts, however, their States and especially their agricultural sectors remained exposed to other threats, including infrastructure vulnerability and the impacts of climate change and El Niño. Their Governments therefore highlighted the need for global cooperation and resources in managing risks and other sustainable development challenges. In that context, it was important for United Nations policies to respect different cultures and promote inclusive economic

management to achieve sustainable development in harmony with nature. With poverty eradication as its main goal, the international community must direct its efforts to the neediest countries, regardless of their geographical location. Progress with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda would not be possible without taking into consideration the needs of all Member States, in particular those with significant vulnerabilities, including middle-income countries.

102. **Ms. Deiyé** (Nauru), speaking on behalf of the Group of Pacific Small Island Developing States, said that Agenda 21 had first formally recognized the special case of small island developing States with regard to sustainable development, highlighting their vulnerability, small size, limited resources and geographic dispersion. Those core features continued to be relevant, especially given the mounting negative effects of climate change. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda must therefore continue to address the special challenges and vulnerabilities of small island developing States.

103. The special case for the sustainable development of such States was outlined in the Samoa Pathway. Accordingly, interlinkages must be created when implementing the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda, and appropriate United Nations system support for small island developing States was still required. In particular, due consideration should be given to the initial findings of the comprehensive review of the Joint Inspection Unit of United Nations system support for small island developing States (A/71/267/Add.1) with a view to improving its functioning.

104. While capacity-building efforts continued to play an important role, they must also build national and institutional capacity for sustainable development. Moreover, as external shocks impeded the sustainable development of small island developing States, the international community must build resilience in line with the Sendai Framework.

105. As the ocean accounted for 98.5 per cent of the Group's size, it was the lifeblood of its economies, livelihoods, health, resilience and productivity. Tuna fisheries, for example, were a key source of revenue whose contribution to sustainable development was recognized through the observation of World Tuna Day. However, growing negative consequences produced by

human activities threatened the oceans; it was therefore crucial to fully implement Sustainable Development Goal 14.

106. The Group called for greater ambition and response to the grave, even existential, threat posed by climate change and for those who had not yet ratified the Paris Agreement to do so.

107. **Ms. Natividad** (Philippines) said that the 2030 Agenda underscored the indivisible and integrated nature of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, which were nowhere more critical than in the area of disaster risk reduction. Her country had experienced first-hand how even a single disaster could reverse advances in poverty reduction, inclusive growth and sustainable development. In that regard, the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies should substantially increase by 2020, in accordance with the Sendai Framework. The indicators developed for the 2030 Agenda and the Sendai Framework must moreover be coherent.

108. Natural disasters were not just sudden bursts of fury, but could also be reoccurring and long-lasting phenomena. From late 2015 until May 2016, her country had weathered one of the worst El Niño events in its history. Despite the existence of a national action plan on food and energy security, health and public safety, almost 8 million Filipinos had been affected by drought and agricultural production losses had reached more than \$300 million. Greater intergovernmental coordination and experience-sharing were necessary to combat the effects of El Niño and La Niña, as well as desertification and sandstorms.

109. As the frequency and intensity of such hazards had been exacerbated by climate change, her delegation called for climate justice and the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities in implementing obligations under the Paris Agreement.

110. Sustainable Development Goal 7 on access to energy also facilitated the achievement of the other Goals. Countries must increase their share of renewable energy and promote cleaner and more energy-efficient technologies. Her Government was facilitating a national policy review and framework on

energy in accordance with a low-carbon development pathway.

111. As one of the world's megadiverse countries, the Philippines welcomed the mainstreaming of biodiversity into the sustainable development agenda through Goal 15; biodiversity loss was directly impacted by climate change, which in turn affected poverty eradication and food security. Member States that had not yet done so were encouraged to ratify or accede to the Convention on Biological Diversity and to implement the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Similarly, biodiversity conservation would require the protection of mountain ecosystems and communities that were highly vulnerable to climate change, extreme weather events and land degradation. However, achieving the Sustainable Development Goals would ultimately require adequate funding and strong, inclusive and integrated partnerships at all levels.

112. **Ms. Namgyel** (Bhutan) said that the principle of leaving no one behind was a fundamental component of the 2030 Agenda. As a country with highly biodiverse mountain ecosystems, Bhutan recognized that sustainable mountain development was essential to the fight against climate change. Mountain systems, as a reservoir and provider of global goods and services, were essential building blocks for long-term sustainable global development, poverty reduction and the transition towards a green economy. Consequently, increased levels of investment and funding for sustainable development in mountain regions at the global, regional, national and community levels were extremely important not only for mountain countries, but for the global community at large.

113. Sustainable development required a holistic approach that combined environmental protection and conservation with economic development and poverty reduction. While her country had performed well with regard to the environmental pillar, it would strive to do more on the economic front. In that regard, Sustainable Development Goal 7 on access to energy would play a key role. Around one in seven people worldwide lacked access to electricity. Without electricity, women and girls were forced to spend hours fetching water, children could not do their homework at night,

businesses could not become competitive and countries could not power their economies or create jobs for young people.

114. Hydropower also had an important role to play in achieving Goal 7. When properly planned and implemented, hydropower could be an affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern technology to help communities, nations and regions acquire a reliable supply of electricity, thus supporting economic and social development worldwide. Bhutan therefore saw hydropower as a central pillar of its sustainable development and poverty eradication efforts. Given its ability to provide multiple services, hydropower could also contribute to other Sustainable Development Goals on water, resilient infrastructure and climate change.

115. Harmony with nature was the "middle path" approach to sustainable development, which called for the preservation of the relationship between the people and environment of Bhutan that had been forged over centuries. Harmony with nature was therefore at the heart of the 2030 Agenda and the need for sustainable consumption and production.

116. **Mr. Sinha** (India) said that the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals aimed to bring about a world in harmony with nature and without poverty or hunger by 2030: a world where the poor did not have to pay the bill for the excesses of the rich. The 2030 Agenda sought to integrate and balance the three pillars of economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection. However, the eradication of poverty and hunger were necessarily the first priorities, without which no development could be sustainable.

117. His country would present its voluntary national review in 2017, with a view to facilitating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by sharing its experiences, challenges and lessons learned. India had also integrated the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals into its national development strategies and dedicated one day of each parliamentary session to discussing progress on the Goals. The success of India in sustaining robust economic growth to eradicate poverty would contribute in no small measure to the global achievement of the Goals.

118. However, the effective implementation of nationally owned and country-led sustainable development required

financing strategies, resource mobilization, the support of global partnerships and the contribution of all relevant stakeholders. The international community must use the opportunity of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review to chart the course for the United Nations development system, maintaining an unrelenting focus on poverty eradication. The additional financing required for any other purpose could not come at the expense of development funding, which the developing world continued to await.

119. Climate change was a critical component of sustainable development, as it affected public health, food and water security, migration, and peace and security. To that end, India had deposited its instrument of ratification for the Paris Agreement in October 2016. His country's submission of its intended nationally determined contribution was a sign of its commitment to the fight against climate change. India would reduce its emissions by 35 per cent, build 40 per cent of power capacity from non-fossil fuels and create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 billion tonnes through afforestation.

120. With regard to disaster risk reduction, India, in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, would host the biennial Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in November 2016.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

**General Assembly**

Seventy-first session

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Second Committee**Summary record of the 10th meeting**

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 10 October 2016, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Mr. Díaz de la Guardia (Vice-Chair) (Spain)**Contents**Agenda item 19: Sustainable development (*continued*)

- (a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (*continued*)
- (b) Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (*continued*)
- (c) Disaster risk reduction (*continued*)
- (d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind (*continued*)
- (e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (*continued*)
- (f) Convention on Biological Diversity (*continued*)
- (g) Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (*continued*)
- (h) Harmony with Nature (*continued*)
- (i) Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy (*continued*)
- (j) Sustainable mountain development (*continued*)

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In the absence of Mr. Djani (Indonesia), Mr. Díaz de la Guardia (Spain), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

Agenda item 19: Sustainable development

(continued) (A/71/76-E/2016/55, A/71/190, A/71/210, A/71/215, A/71/217, A/71/376, A/71/537 and A/71/539; A/C.2/71/2)

- (a) **Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development** *(continued)* (A/71/212, A/71/260 and A/71/320; A/C.2/71/3)
- (b) **Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States** *(continued)* (A/71/265, A/71/267, A/71/267/Add.1, A/71/324, A/71/324/Corr.1 and A/71/324/Add.1)
- (c) **Disaster risk reduction** *(continued)* (A/71/230)
- (d) **Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind** *(continued)*
- (e) **Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa** *(continued)*
- (f) **Convention on Biological Diversity** *(continued)* (A/71/216)
- (g) **Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme** *(continued)* (A/71/25)
- (h) **Harmony with Nature** *(continued)* (A/71/266)
- (i) **Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy** *(continued)* (A/71/220)
- (j) **Sustainable mountain development** *(continued)* (A/71/256)

1. **Mr. Amer** (Israel) said that it was customary during the Jewish New Year, which coincided with the current meeting, to say "let us be the head and not the tail". That should be the mindset of the Second Committee, which should strive to move forward not backwards at the current session.

2. The meaning and breadth of sustainable development had changed significantly since the international community had first set out to define "the future we want". The scope of the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was wide and diverse, and the approach was multidimensional and comprehensive. His country had been working to prepare the groundwork for implementing the 2030 Agenda in partnership with the private sector, civil society, academia and other stakeholders. The key to a sustainable and prosperous future was the talent and creativity of members of society whose skills could be harnessed to invest in education, science and technology.

3. His country intended to submit its biennial draft resolution on entrepreneurship for development at the current session. The draft resolution highlighted the important contribution of entrepreneurship to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets related to decent work, economic growth, quality education and reduced inequalities.

4. Entrepreneurship was not only a matter of financial profits but also social gains. Entrepreneurs were innovators and problem-solvers who found local solutions to global problems and could help overcome many sustainable development challenges associated with renewable energy, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and disaster risk reduction. Entrepreneurship also facilitated progress with such cross-cutting issues as gender equality, the empowerment of women and young people, and with the promotion of a multi-stakeholder approach.

5. Paying tribute to the late former President and Prime Minister of Israel, Shimon Peres, he said that Mr. Peres had been one of his nation's founding fathers, a source of inspiration for Israelis and a symbol of hope and peace. He had never stopped thinking of the future in the belief that the most important accomplishments still lay ahead.

6. **Mr. Husny** (Maldives) said that the recent high-level political forum on sustainable development had rightly provided all countries, including the most vulnerable ones such as small island developing States, with an opportunity to reflect and share best practices regarding means of implementation, and to begin follow-up and review work. His country intended to present a voluntary national review at the 2017 high-level political forum.

7. The 2030 Agenda was notable for its focus on countries requiring targeted attention. In that regard, the Second Committee was the most important space for the follow-up to the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway), which specifically addressed small island developing States. As one such country, Maldives required increased capacity-building across the board, especially in the area of data collection and analysis, in order to support the implementation, follow-up and review of both the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda. The shortage of data for many indicators constrained his Government's ability to collect and analyse baseline data, and a limited capacity to carry out that important activity was one of the major barriers to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

8. Climate change was the greatest challenge to sustainable development in Maldives, which had been one of the first countries to ratify the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The imminent entry into force of that instrument was merely the first step towards the fulfilment of the commitments enshrined therein. For its part, his Government had diversified energy sources to reduce the reliance on imported fuel and the attendant fluctuations in price and availability, and was taking the lead in the scaling up of renewable energy and the adoption of low-carbon technologies.

9. His Government also supported the decade for sustainable tourism, one of the central priorities for small island developing States. As sustainable tourism was key to economic growth in his country, his Government would reach out to existing and new partners to ensure that the tourism industry would engage with local communities, protect cultural heritage and provide environmental conservation.

10. **Mr. Castañeda Solares** (Guatemala) said that his country had developed a long-term development vision

reflected in the "Katun Nuestra Guatemala 2032" national development plan. While the involvement of all social actors and the international community would be needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, his country faced factors that undermined development and were beyond its control, such as natural disasters of which the majority were closely related to climate change and caused large numbers of deaths. Disaster risk was thus one of the most important issues to be addressed at the regional and international levels.

11. Central American countries, especially those in the dry corridor, had recurrently been badly affected by El Niño and La Niña. Emergency investment was no longer sufficient and stable long-term investment was needed to boost resilience and help people to escape the cycle of hunger resulting from extended droughts followed by floods. His Government therefore welcomed the forthcoming twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the fifth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, which would continue the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

12. Guatemala would continue its efforts to reduce deforestation and forest degradation as one of 19 megadiverse nations and the host of one of the largest concentrations of biodiversity. For example, at the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, a proposal presented by Guatemala and co-sponsored by Argentina, Brazil and Kenya on the inclusion of the genus *Dalbergia* in Appendix II of the Convention had been adopted by consensus and would help to prevent illicit trafficking in rosewood.

13. **Ms. Shurbaji** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that one year after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the challenges posed by the global economic and geopolitical situation, and in particular the global refugee crisis, meant that it could not truly be said that genuine progress had been made. The high-level political forum should therefore confront those challenges frankly and transparently, and put in place mechanisms to assist developing States suffering from crises and special situations. The ongoing crisis in her

country demonstrated clearly that there could be no development without peace and security, and also that foreign intervention was a major obstacle to development.

14. In order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, all States must fulfil their obligations under Security Council resolutions on combating the financing of terrorism. A recent report prepared by the Office of the Resident Representative in Syria in conjunction with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia had shown how the unilateral coercive economic measures being imposed on her country by the United States and the European Union were having a negative impact on all Syrians across various sectors, and also impeding the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Rather than imposing such measures, the international community should provide support for the Syrian Arab Republic in its war against terrorism and deliver humanitarian assistance to its people without politicization or double standards. Among other things, that would decrease the number of Syrians who were being forced to contemplate emigration.

15. Her delegation also took issue with the finding of the United Nations Environment Programme presented in the report of the Secretary-General on the oil slick on Lebanese shores (A/71/217), namely that a change in the original assessment of the physical damage to the environment from that oil slick was not warranted.

16. **Mr. Kononuchenko** (Russian Federation) said that his country was committed to the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda, whose adoption would provide a new impetus to multilateral cooperation in the economic, social and environmental spheres.

17. His country welcomed the achievements of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Life" 2005-2015, under which a record number of sustainable water management initiatives had been launched. The outcome of the Decade had clearly demonstrated the need to further share experience and best practices in the context of achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6. He trusted that the launch of a second water decade would not be used to politicize the discussions on water use.

18. Regarding universal access to energy resources, the Russian Federation supported further development of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, including the planned creation of an organization with the same name in Vienna and the continuation of its Advisory Board. His country was prepared to actively support the goals of the initiative, including through the involvement of Russian energy companies.

19. It was important to balance international energy development with the specific interests and needs of all countries. The solution to "energy poverty" lay in a balanced approach based on the effective use of traditional energy resources and the development of renewable energy sources.

20. Noting the progress made in the implementation of the Samoa Pathway, he said that the activities of the Small Island Developing States Partnership Framework, including its steering committee as well as global and regional partnership dialogues, should be based on a clear plan aimed at developing effective practical measures to encourage existing partnerships and attract new participants. In that context, his delegation welcomed the creation of a partnership reporting template and the holding of a midterm review in 2019 to evaluate progress made in implementing the priorities of the Samoa Pathway. At the same time, such an evaluation must take into account the goals reflected in the national strategies of small island developing States.

21. Significant work had been done by the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on indicators and terminology relating to disaster risk reduction. The rise in the intensity and number of natural disasters required decisive measures, including first and foremost strengthened national capacity in responding to emergency situations. It was therefore vital to undertake comprehensive programmes to train personnel, build the capacities of the emergency response services and improve technology transfer. The Russian Federation was already providing such assistance to the most vulnerable developing countries. One example was its collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme on a multi-year project with a budget of \$7.5 million to assist all 14 Pacific island States with disaster preparedness.

22. Effectively countering the negative impact of climate change was a key factor in the achievement of

sustainable development. The adoption of the Paris Agreement had been a global milestone which reflected the will of the international community to work together to address that global challenge. The regulations to be drawn up for implementing the Paris Agreement would directly determine the effectiveness of the post-2020 climate regime. For its part, the Russian Federation was currently preparing a national plan to improve its regulation of greenhouse gas emissions.

23. Welcoming the outcome of the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly held in May 2016 in Nairobi, he looked forward to the United Nations Environment Programme, under the leadership of its new Executive Director, continuing to effectively contribute to the implementation of the environmental components of sustainable development in accordance with its existing mandate.

24. **Mr. AlGhunaim** (Saudi Arabia) said that a collective effort to narrow the gap between developed and developing countries was crucial for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Different countries had different needs, and the specificities of different countries' national legislations should be respected. For developing countries, the priorities were overcoming poverty, hunger, ignorance and disease. The national Vision 2030 plan for economic diversification took into account his country's Arab Islamic foundations, geostrategic location and investment capacities, and envisioned qualitative leaps forward in energy, industry, health, education and tourism, with a view to increasing non-petroleum revenues and employment opportunities.

25. The Kingdom was a major development donor and partner, particularly for developing States that were undergoing crises. Over the past four decades, it had provided over \$100 billion in non-refundable assistance and concessional loans to some 95 countries. It had also contributed \$1 billion to the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development and forgiven some \$6 billion in development debt.

26. While his delegation was pleased by the adoption of the Paris Agreement, it stressed that efforts to lower greenhouse gas emissions should not be prejudicial to any particular source of energy. For its part, the energy industry of Saudi Arabia was investing in carbon sequestration and separation techniques.

27. **Mr. Perera** (Sri Lanka) said that climate change caused by human activities had led to global warming. Far-reaching curative measures were therefore required to protect the climate for future generations. Two important milestones had been reached in the past 13 months: Sustainable Development Goal 13 on fighting climate change; and the legally binding universal Paris Agreement, which his country had already signed and for which the instrument of ratification had been deposited in September 2016. The political will behind the entry into force of the Agreement in November 2016 augured well for its effective implementation.

28. Although his country's contribution to global warming was negligible, it was, as a developing country, highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change and had recently been affected by floods and landslides. Other parts of the country had been affected by drought. Those extreme weather events had harmed the agricultural sector, threatened food security and more generally hampered sustainable development. Developed countries should honour their commitments to developing countries in the areas of financial assistance, transfers of technology and capacity-building in order to tackle climate change.

29. Adaptation was the best way to address climate change. Accordingly, his Government had developed a national climate change adaptation strategy and policy. It had also identified priority areas for mitigation. Specifically, the energy, transport and industrial sectors had a high greenhouse gas reduction potential. His Government was also making efforts to develop renewable energy sources and implement energy conservation measures in order to protect the climate for future generations.

30. **Ms. Krisnamurthi** (Indonesia) said that the achievement of sustainable development would require concerted action by all Governments as well as stakeholders and partners. To leave no one behind, the poor needed economic opportunities and innovative efforts. Investment should be steered towards sustainable practices, and countries that had successfully contributed to sustainable development should be given incentives. Entrepreneurship, especially in micro, small and medium-sized enterprises could help the poor to become self-reliant and sustainable development actors. Enhanced education and training would also address

challenges such as skills shortages and management capacity. Integrated knowledge and skills might be the key to overcoming those challenges and achieving economic progress.

31. Global partnership in the area of the means of implementation was important for translating sustainable development commitments into tangible outcomes. In that regard, new partnerships and innovative sources of financing in the private sector and civil society could play a complementary role in job creation and community empowerment; the relevant political structure should be open enough to include non-State actors; and the financing mechanism involved should be coupled with knowledge sharing, transfers of technology and better market access for developing countries and least developed countries, as well as for middle-income countries, which faced many challenges, not least the recent global economic turmoil.

32. The three dimensions of sustainable development should be mainstreamed into the United Nations system so that it could deliver capacity-building to developing countries. All stakeholders, especially those that delivered productive capacity, should also be involved. Furthermore, a focus on data would make it possible to develop policies and strategies that integrated the three pillars of sustainable development.

33. To combat climate change, action taken before 2020 would lay a foundation for the implementation stage after that date. Developed countries should continue to reduce emissions, provide financial support, technological cooperation and capacity-building. Meanwhile, developing countries should contribute more based on their national capacities and priorities. Addressing climate change also meant protecting and conserving marine resources. Indonesia and neighbouring countries had therefore launched the Coral Triangle Initiative to conserve the marine environment and increase the number of marine protected areas.

34. **Mr. Mahmadaminov** (Tajikistan) said that climate change was a complex challenge that undermined the efforts of the international community to achieve sustainable development and caused increasingly frequent natural disasters. The United Nations should therefore coordinate cooperation on risk reduction and the mitigation of the consequences

of natural disasters, in particular through the Sendai Framework, under which early warning systems should be improved, investments in disaster risk reduction should be increased, and financial assistance should be given to developing countries.

35. According to the 2030 Agenda, water was the most essential element of life and the main component of development. The Sustainable Development Goals and the related targets addressed water-related challenges. That was a positive shift, but it also set the bar very high. Especially important in that context were the lack of, or unequal access to, drinking water, basic sanitation and sound hygiene practices.

36. Significant progress could be achieved when water challenges were prioritized. Moreover, more global monitoring, reporting and information-gathering would drive action at the political level. The nexus approach to water resources would develop and share knowledge of global challenges and policy responses. Inter-agency and intergovernmental coordination would also lead to a less fragmented international water community and advance efforts to achieve internationally agreed goals.

37. The international community must make coordinated efforts and adopt both urgent and long-term measures, especially when water resources were shared between such sectors as health care, agriculture, energy and navigation, and when groundwater was shared between communities and countries.

38. A new decade devoted to water issues should focus on the integrated management of water resources; the implementation and promotion of related programmes and projects; and the enhancement of cooperation and partnership at all levels with a view to achieving internationally agreed goals, especially those contained in the 2030 Agenda. A draft resolution in that regard would shortly be presented for consideration by the Second Committee. More than 145 countries had already sponsored the draft resolution and he hoped that more countries would join that list.

39. Lastly, he noted that a high-level symposium on the Sustainable Development Goals and the related targets, geared to ensuring no one was left behind in access to water and sanitation, had been held in Tajikistan to promote the International Decade for Action, 'Water for Life', 2005-2015, and sustainable development.

40. **Mr. Al-Sheeb** (Qatar) said that the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (A/71/212) offered grounds for optimism. Some pioneering sustainable development initiatives had already been implemented under the Qatar National Vision 2030, with a particular focus on quality education for all as a key component of its human resources investment strategy.

41. The escalation of conflicts around the world and the resulting refugee crises posed major challenges to development. There was a particular need to combat violent extremism and to create societies where the rule of law prevailed, in accordance with Sustainable Development Goal 16. In that context, his country had been involved in establishing the Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Promoting Peaceful, Just, and Inclusive Societies.

42. In addition to taking the initiative in establishing the Global Dryland Alliance to combat desertification and drought, Qatar also stressed the need for new and renewable energy sources to address climate change.

43. **Mr. Ramírez Carreño** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that the global capitalist hegemonic model continued to generate serious economic, social and environmental imbalances. It was an unsustainable system: the 80 richest individuals had as much wealth as roughly half of the people in the world. Furthermore, 1.3 billion people lived on less than a dollar a day and could not meet their basic needs and therefore could not exercise their human rights. The global statistics for the previous year were alarming: 6 million children had died from preventable or curable diseases; 795 million people were undernourished; and there were 65 million displaced persons. Wars caused by geopolitical interests prevented developing countries from controlling their own natural resources.

44. With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, leaders of developing countries had made a commitment to implementing a different and genuinely inclusive development model. However, political will would be required, especially on the part of the more developed countries, to develop strategies to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development while recognizing that

States were responsible for their own well-being. Permanent sovereignty over natural resources was the inalienable right of countries. They should be able to draw direct benefits from those resources without the involvement of transnational corporations. The proceeds of those resources could then be fairly redistributed among the population and could also assist with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

45. At the recent high-level political forum, his Government had been able to share its experiences of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, as a result of a commitment at the highest level and from all government institutions, in spite of adverse political, economic and climatological conditions. Under his country's development plan, a combined strategy of economic and social development was being implemented with respect for nature at all times. Whereas in many countries social development was considered a cost and respect for nature a missed economic opportunity, in his country they were part of a holistic approach resulting from a commitment to the Venezuelan people made even before the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement. His country's development model was human-centred and based on solidarity, justice, social inclusion, human rights and citizen participation. As part of a commitment to maintain social investment and achieve social happiness, 71.4 per cent of human and financial resources were devoted to social development.

46. Climate change was a global threat and his country had not escaped its consequences. Prolonged droughts and disrupted rainfall patterns had impacted the yield of agricultural areas and therefore food security. The Paris Agreement was therefore a welcome development.

47. A prerequisite for sustainable development was political stability and peace. The international community, and the Security Council in particular, bore the responsibility for preventing armed conflict while respecting the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-intervention in the internal affairs of countries. War and terrorism were obstacles to sustainable development, as evidenced by the situation in countries in the Middle East and Africa. Colonialism and foreign occupation were also obstacles to sustainable development, as in the case of the State of Palestine.

48. **Ms. Loe** (Norway) said that it was unfortunate that the Committee was still addressing sustainable development as though it had only one dimension. In order for the Committee to deliver relevant political guidance to further the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, it must find a way to address such issues in a more integrated manner.
49. Bearing in mind the need for a more integrated approach, she welcomed the fact that enough countries had now ratified the Paris Agreement for its entry into force. Climate change jeopardized the livelihoods not only of future generations but also many people currently populating the globe, particularly those in small island developing States. Rapid action was needed to prevent climate change from undermining all other sustainable development efforts, which only further demonstrated the indivisible nature of the Sustainable Development Goals. Climate change also aggravated poverty and natural disasters, and increased the risk of conflict and mass migration, particularly in fragile States. Owing to its scale, speed and unpredictability, climate change must be recognized as a major global security challenge to be tackled with every tool currently available.
50. Peace was also fundamental for sustainable development. In the course of a few days, war and internal conflict could destroy what generations had worked to build. Furthermore, conflict drove large numbers of people away from their homes and livelihoods.
51. Achieving sustainable energy for all would not only contribute towards combating climate change but would also help to advance the agenda on poverty eradication, food security, clean water and sanitation, health, education, and the empowerment of youth and women. To that end, it was crucial to mobilize corresponding investments from private and commercial actors.
52. **Mr. Meza-Cuadra** (Peru) said that his country was one of the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Glaciers were melting at an accelerated rate, and local weather patterns were changing, affecting crop viability. The related challenges faced by small Andean farmers, communities living in forests, local fishermen and residents of city suburbs were forcing the Government to divert its limited resources.
53. Climate change threatened food safety, fisheries, water sources, biodiversity and ecosystems. Water was a resource that was extremely sensitive to the weather, with changes to precipitation patterns causing droughts and flooding, and glacial melting reducing the available amount of that vital resource. That had motivated Peru to participate actively in the Paris Agreement: his country had been the first in the region to ratify the instrument.
54. Recent dynamic economic growth in Peru would drive the transition towards a low-carbon economy and promote broad-based energy efficiency initiatives. In line with Sustainable Development Goal 13 on climate action, Peru had established a national climate change strategy that reflected its integrated and multisectoral commitment to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. It had also established a national forestry and climate change strategy with a long-term vision up to 2030.
55. In line with those strategies, sustainable green growth had been prioritized in environmental and social policies for economic development, taking into account such concepts as biological diversity, efficient waste management, and climate change adaptation and mitigation.
56. The Sendai Framework was a landmark agreement under which risk reduction spending was viewed as an investment in safeguarding populations against risk vulnerability for a more sustainable future. The Paris Agreement had similarly shown the close relationship between climate change and natural disasters. In turn, disaster risk management was a fundamental part of sustainable development, which explained its cross-cutting nature in the 2030 Agenda. Disaster risk management was State policy in Peru, owing to his country's vulnerable geographical location. For example, the 2015/2016 El Niño phenomenon had been one of the strongest since 1997. However, pursuant to the special meeting of the Economic and Social Council on the impacts of the El Niño phenomenon, existing national and local action plans had been updated with risk reduction measures that had safeguarded lives and infrastructure.
57. Given the increasing vulnerability of mountain-dwelling peoples, his country would promote sustainable development for mountain regions during the present session. Since 2001, the incidence of

poverty had been reduced from more than half of the country's population to less than one quarter. However, poverty rates remained especially high in mountain regions. As related challenges could overcome the capabilities of middle-income country such as Peru, the support of the international community would be required to assist the most disadvantaged populations.

58. **Ms. Ataeva** (Turkmenistan) said that her country would host the first Global Sustainable Transport Conference on 26 and 27 November 2016 under the auspices of the United Nations. The Conference would be held at the highest level and would bring together key stakeholders from Governments, the United Nations system and other international organizations, the private sector and civil society to engage in dialogue that emphasized the integrated and cross-cutting nature of sustainable transport. All modes of transport would be addressed as well as other transport-related issues such as energy, road safety and the financing of sustainable transport.

59. Drawing attention to the draft programme, information note and other background materials posted on the website for the forthcoming Conference, she said that it would contribute to advancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Furthermore, while sustainable transport was not represented by a stand-alone Sustainable Development Goal, it was directly linked to Goal 3 on health, Goal 7 on energy, Goal 9 on resilient infrastructure, Goal 11 on sustainable infrastructure and Goal 12 on sustainable consumption and production.

60. Lastly, noting that the Permanent Mission of Turkmenistan and the Department for Economic and Social Affairs would organize a briefing on the Global Sustainable Transport Conference on 20 October 2016, she encouraged all Member States, representatives of the United Nations system and other stakeholders to participate.

61. **Mr. Momeni** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his country had set several national priorities and goals, including a transitional course towards a low-carbon and green economy, since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. In accordance with its intended nationally determined contributions submitted under the United Nations Framework Convention of Climate Change, the Islamic Republic of Iran stood ready to mitigate its greenhouse gas emissions, to ratify the

Paris Agreement in 2017 and to host an international conference on combating sand and dust storms.

62. With a view to ensuring the universality of the 2030 Agenda, all bilateral, regional and multilateral actions must be complementary. However, Western Asia faced severe challenges to implementing the Agenda, such as poverty, land degradation, desertification, water scarcity, hot climate conditions, extensive drought, in addition to terrorism and extremist violence. Consequently, Governments from affected countries were being forced to spend limited national resources on fighting insecurity rather than implementing the Agenda.

63. His country's top priority remained eliminating poverty and hunger, and the successful negotiation of the draft resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review would be critical to an international environment enabling the full eradication of poverty. In particular, there should be more ambitious, inclusive and non-discriminatory measures, accompanied by effective international support and solidarity, to facilitate the implementation of the Agenda as a whole and Sustainable Development Goals 17 in particular. To that end, capacity-building, technology transfer, trade facilitation and access to financial resources should be provided, and countries should refrain from any form of unilateral or coercive financial or trade measures.

64. **Mr. Calvo** (Costa Rica) said that his country had ratified the Paris Agreement in October 2016, which, together with the first anniversary of the 2030 Agenda, represented milestones in making sustainable development a reality. The Committee must show decisive support for their implementation, and the strong political will embodied in those instruments must transform sustainable development.

65. An appropriate balance between the social, economic and environmental aspects of sustainable development was integral to national development strategies and how international cooperation could be harnessed to meet domestic commitments. In that regard, all aspects of international cooperation must be strengthened, especially those required for developing countries to achieve sustainable development, and efforts must be directed at areas where the poor were located. The 2030 Agenda could not be implemented without giving due consideration to all States Members

of the United Nations, especially those with significant vulnerabilities and special challenges, such as middle-income countries.

66. Given the vagaries of climate change and its ensuing disastrous consequences, goals would require constant revision. Governments must promote domestic measures to prevent global temperatures from increasing by more than 1.5 degrees Celsius, and economies must focus on extreme carbon reduction to achieve carbon neutrality. The close relationship between climate change and human rights must also be recognized, and the Committee must participate in the conversation on that topic.

67. His country, which had been promoting sustainable development for decades before that concept had been adopted by the United Nations, wished to become a green laboratory of best practices for the implementation of the related agreements. For example, in 2016 Costa Rica had used 100 per cent renewable energy for electricity production for more than 150 consecutive days, proving that it was possible to leave behind the dependency on fossil fuels. Furthermore, the Minister of the Environment and Energy of Costa Rica had served as the President of the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly. His country would continue to promote consensus to move forward with the colossal yet essential work of promoting sustainable development.

68. **Mr. Tiare** (Burkina Faso) said that it had been recognized in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development that water was central to sustainable development. Furthermore, the comprehensive and interlinked role of water had been acknowledged in the 2030 Agenda, which demonstrated the connections between water and sanitation, on the one hand, and other areas such as health, food, energy, poverty elimination, economic productivity and access to education, on the other. While new and renewable sources of energy were considered significant energy supply resources in their own right, they were also key in facing such global challenges as universal access to energy, energy security and climate change, and ultimately in eliminating poverty and achieving sustainable development. Similarly, the linkages between entrepreneurship and sustainable development were well established. Entrepreneurship contributed towards economic growth

and diversification. It drove the structural change and industrialization that led to open and lasting socioeconomic development.

69. However, there could be no sustainable development without peace, and no peace without sustainable development. Currently, the commitment to the core principle of inclusiveness challenged the international community to move beyond a focus on meeting immediate needs and to instead invest in enabling solutions that, over the medium- and long-term, lead to improved, sustainable and resilient outcomes in the lives and livelihoods of affected populations, including displaced and conflict-affected populations. In that context, the Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement demonstrated the commitment of the international community to manage and reduce risks while building resilience.

70. The recently elected President of Burkina Faso had already ensured the adoption of a National Economic and Social Development Plan, which encompassed economic transformation, institutional reform, administrative modernization, growth sector revitalization and development of human capital. The Plan prioritized 86 of the 169 targets of the Sustainable Development Goals, and was expected to make significant advances by 2020 in such areas as job creation and poverty reduction. The effective support of development partners and other international actors would be necessary for successful outcomes of that very ambitious Plan.

71. **Ms. Karabaeva** (Kyrgyzstan) said that her country's sustainable development policies had been guided by low-carbon development, resource conservation measures, green economy projects, and renewable and cost-effective sources of energy, and thus Kyrgyzstan had been able to lay a good foundation for the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals. While Kyrgyzstan was a mountainous, landlocked developing country, it had demonstrated an excellent balance between economic development and environmental protection.

72. The transition from traditional energy sources to renewable and cost-effective ones was of paramount importance in Kyrgyzstan, as investing in green economy projects increased the country's agricultural yields and helped to ensure food security. National

energy security had already greatly improved over the past five years: hydropower was now used to generate clean and inexpensive electricity.

73. However, mountain ecosystems were very vulnerable to climate change. Glaciers in Kyrgyzstan were forecast to shrink in size by 30 to 40 per cent by 2025, and water availability in the region would decline by one third. Her Government therefore supported the cost-efficient use of water resources in all of Central Asia.

74. Climate change also caused irreparable harm to the biodiversity of mountain ecosystems. Under such threats, her country had authored initiatives to protect the endangered snow leopard population, for instance, and was presenting them to the States Members of the United Nations at various forums.

75. The remediation and safety and security of uranium waste and other radioactive and toxic materials remained an acute problem. The situation was aggravated by the fact that most of the tailing ponds were located in seismically active areas prone to mudflows and flooding, or near to river banks that formed the basis of the Central Asian water supply. As ineffective solutions would have a catastrophic impact on the lives and health of the millions of people living there, focused and coordinated work was needed under General Assembly resolution 68/218, entitled "The role of the international community in averting the radiation threat in Central Asia". The Government of Kyrgyzstan would host an international high-level forum within that framework in May and June 2017.

76. **Mr. Wu** (Singapore) said that in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and commitments to address climate change, countries must adapt solutions to their own national priorities and unique circumstances. As a small island city-State with limited natural resources, Singapore had adopted various approaches to improve energy efficiency in the industrial, household and transport sectors, including changing its primary means of power generation from fuel oil to natural gas and pricing energy at market cost to encourage its judicious use, all of which had led to a reduction in emissions. His country had also recently released a climate action plan outlining strategies to strengthen resilience to climate change. The action plan would guide efforts to meet commitments under the Paris Agreement.

77. Water supply constraints had been overcome through decades of continuous innovation, and desalination and water reclamation and recycling technologies had allowed his country to diversify its supply and meet demand. Those technologies were now being shared with other countries, and thus the constraints had been turned into strategic opportunities.

78. Collaborative partnerships were crucial for advancing sustainable development. Having previously been the beneficiary of loans to improve sanitation, Singapore was now providing technical assistance to developing countries in the areas of leadership and governance, sustainable cities, and water and sanitation solutions. It had also committed to partnerships with United Nations agencies to advocate for such causes as sanitation for all, access to toilets and an end to open defecation.

79. **Mr. De Lara Rangel** (Mexico) said that, in the context of the commitments undertaken pursuant to the 2030 Agenda, conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity had become essential. As such, his country gave the highest priority to promoting a transformative vision that acknowledged the link between the three dimensions of sustainable development and biodiversity. That link was a hub connecting key industries such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism. His country would therefore host the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Cancun in December 2016, together with the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, under the theme "Mainstreaming Biodiversity for Human Well-being".

80. The 2030 Agenda had placed development at the core of the work of the United Nations. Development was central to preventing conflicts through sustainable peace and disaster risk reduction, which his country would promote. In May 2017, Mexico would therefore host the fifth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Cancun to encourage States Members of the United Nations to transcend current management practices and address risks such as poverty, untrammelled urban growth and environmental degradation. His country was very concerned by the

devastating economic impact of disasters, which diverted essential resources that could otherwise be used for development. Challenges arising as a direct result of climate change, rapid urban growth and water use management could be resolved through building resilient, inclusive and engaged communities.

81. His country placed a high priority on combating desertification as an integral part of efforts to sustainably manage natural resources. It would continue to support plans to assist developing countries in implementing the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa.

82. The 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement called for particular attention to be directed towards small island developing States, which were especially threatened by climate change. In that regard, Mexico would continue to support the work of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, and reaffirmed its commitment to the effective implementation of the agreed actions in the Samoa Pathway.

83. Mobilizing resources for sustainable development entailed international cooperation for development, which must be effective to maximize results. There must be periodic and timely feedback on planned support over the medium term, and the United Nations system should cooperate with other relevant forums such as the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation.

84. Lastly, Mexico was making progress in mitigating climate change and establishing itself as a model of energy efficiency by promoting clean energy, reducing electricity consumption and implementing energy efficiency measures over the short, medium and long term.

85. **Mr. Sukhee** (Mongolia) said that climate change intensity in his country was nearly three times higher than the global average owing to its geographical location, climate and specific weather features. While total emissions of greenhouse gases from Mongolia were very small compared with other countries, it aimed to cut them by 14 per cent by 2030. However, in order to meet such ambitious commitments, countries like Mongolia with limited capacities must have access

to new technologies and financial aid through internationally agreed mechanisms.

86. In Mongolia, land, forests and water were threatened by climate change and human activities. Animal husbandry, overgrazing and poor crop cultivation practices had resulted in desertification, drought, land degradation and soil erosion, and the Government had applied measures to address those challenges in recent years. Rapid urbanization and the unplanned growth of cities had also brought about challenges such as unemployment, traffic congestion and air, water and soil pollution. His country was ready to engage in United Nations initiatives for sustainable cities and already enjoyed great potential in the area of renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar power. It also recognized the importance of the follow-up and review mechanisms for the comprehensive implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

87. **Ms. Picco** (Monaco) said that, in view of the consequences of plastic waste to marine environments and the fact that the Mediterranean Sea was one of the seas most polluted by microplastics, Monaco had striven to change modes of consumption through such measures as the recently introduced ban on non-reusable plastic bags. That policy was one example of the environmentally oriented approach of the Government, which was conducive to sustainable cities and public health.

88. Monaco had also demonstrated its dedication to sustainable transport, scientific research, and education on sustainable development through a series of policy initiatives, training programmes and institutions such as the Scientific Centre of Monaco, which had been operating since 1960. Her delegation fully supported the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 14, and Monaco was promoting, through those same institutions, the role of science in the good stewardship of oceans, seas and marine resources. The Centre had, for instance, organized three workshops since 2010 on the socioeconomic impact of ocean acidification.

89. **Mr. Madisa** (Botswana) said that the millions of people around the world who continued to struggle for such basic necessities as food, water, shelter and sanitation, as well as the ever-increasing numbers of migrants and refugees, highlighted the imperative of meeting the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable in order to achieve sustainable development.

Recognizing that all dimensions of sustainable development must be integrated into national policies, his country had recently launched a major long-term plan, entitled Vision 2036, which would serve to guide it towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

90. However, actions at the national level needed to be complemented by a supportive global environment that appreciated the role of trade, finance, investment, technology and official development assistance. Botswana was a middle-income country, and its access to such assistance and to sources of concessional funding was therefore limited. That situation compounded its efforts to achieve sustainable development. In that regard, his delegation looked forward to the negotiations of the draft resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review and was confident that the United Nations system would take into consideration the needs of countries in special situations, including African countries, landlocked developing countries and middle-income countries.

91. Botswana recognized the far-reaching consequences of climate change for the achievement of sustainable development. Although extreme weather patterns had become the norm in many countries, and such challenges threatened development efforts, Botswana had incorporated climate-oriented planning into its policies and was working towards a comprehensive climate change strategy to complement the intended nationally determined contribution it had submitted in the context of the Paris Agreement.

92. **Mr. Benmellouk** (Morocco) said that, with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, the international community had established milestones for collective action on the greatest challenge of the present time. The 2030 Agenda would trigger the transformation of development models, which could only occur worldwide in a climate that fostered multilateral solutions. The Sustainable Development Goals must be integrated into national development strategies and public policy according to the distinctive features and development model of each country.

93. For its part, Morocco had based its economic and social policies on sustainable development supported by ambitious reforms. The adoption of the National Charter for the Environment and Sustainable Development, the National Sustainable Development

Strategy 2015-2030 and a renewable energy strategy had strengthened that process. The firm commitment of Morocco to invest in sustainable development and a green economy had been further reinforced by the decision to obtain 52 per cent of its energy supply from renewable sources by 2030 and to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 32 per cent by that date, in addition to shortly creating the largest solar power plant in the world.

94. The Government was also ensuring that sustainable development was integrated into sector-specific development strategies. Large projects, especially for infrastructure, such as the Industrial Acceleration Plan 2014-2020, the Green Morocco Plan for agricultural development, the Halieutis Plan for fisheries and Vision 2020 for tourism in Morocco, had incorporated an ecological dimension and had begun to bring about economic and social transformations in the Kingdom.

95. In July 2016, his country had participated in the voluntary review of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council. The review, which demonstrated a national awareness of the strategic significance of the Goals, had been preceded by national consultations in Rabat on contextualizing the Goals.

96. However, the Goals could not be achieved without placing the fight against climate change at the centre of international action. The twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Marrakesh in November 2016, would be a test of multilateralism and provide an opportunity to make strides in controlling climate change. The international community should come to that Conference with the intention of taking fundamental decisions.

97. His country would spare no effort to ensure the success of the Marrakesh Climate Change Conference. To that end, the Conference would focus on the fulfilment of national pledges, strengthening climate change adaptation, technology transfer and the launch of specific initiatives, especially the mobilization of resources. Financing remained central to the implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation policies of Member States. African

countries in particular had limited capacity to finance such policies, and, like landlocked countries and vulnerable countries, would require targeted and robust assistance. Morocco called on those States that had not yet ratified the Paris Agreement to do so.

98. **Mr. Sobral Duarte** (Brazil) said that the adoption of the 2030 Agenda had been a landmark in the history of the United Nations, and the focus must now be on its implementation. Advances made during the first months of implementation were encouraging. In that regard, General Assembly resolution 70/299 on follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda was useful as a roadmap for implementation, clarifying important aspects that would be instrumental in planning the next sessions of the high-level political forum. Such aspects included the forum's annual themes, synchronization of its four-year cycle with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development and an in-depth discussion of the Goals from 2016 to 2019.

99. The fourth meeting of the high-level political forum, in which government officials and 1,500 civil society representatives had participated, had shown the commitment of the international community to sustainable development. The forum had become the main locus for multilateral discussions on sustainable development, and the lynchpin of the follow-up and review framework for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It was noteworthy that the Technology Facilitation Mechanism had been established, and was operational, as one of the means for that implementation. His country welcomed the first proposal of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators. As it currently held the chairmanship of the United Nations Statistical Commission, Brazil called for the involvement of all States Members of the United Nations and its agencies and programmes in the complex but crucial tasks ahead.

100. His country commended the 22 countries that had completed their voluntary national reviews during the high-level political forum in July 2016. Their presentations contained useful information on the adaptation of domestic policies and structures to the 2030 Agenda. The old paradigm of the Millennium Development Goals however had continued to prevail in some reviews, even though the 2030 Agenda was not

directed exclusively at developing countries and all nations must fulfil the related commitments. The scope of the new development Agenda was not limited to social affairs: all elements of the three dimensions of sustainable development must be included.

101. While Brazil was proud to have ratified the Paris Agreement in September 2016, a long path still remained for its implementation and that of the 2030 Agenda. Bearing that in mind, the issues addressed by the 2030 Agenda but not currently covered by the Committee's agenda must continue to be discussed and the Committee's work must maintain the momentum towards concrete action.

102. **Mr. Rai** (Papua New Guinea) said that while his country's sustainable development agenda was consistent with the 2030 Agenda, it had been established when the State was founded in 1973 and was enshrined in the five National Goals and eight Directive Principles in its Constitution. The principles of integral human development, equality, participation, sovereignty, self-reliance and environmental conservation had similarly been incorporated into the National Strategy for Responsible Sustainable Development.

103. National ownership, leadership, development priorities and plans guided the attainment of all Sustainable Development Goals in Papua New Guinea and therefore national capacities must be strengthened. In particular, his country would welcome development assistance focused on enhancing institutional and human resources development to collate and analyse statistics for the follow-up and review of the Sustainable Development Goals.

104. Climate change was a nemesis of sustainable development and countries must work together to address its impacts. As an island nation, his country was vulnerable to rising sea levels, losses in biodiversity, droughts and storms. Addressing the adverse impacts of climate change was urgent and his country applauded the leadership of the international community in swiftly meeting the thresholds necessary for the Paris Agreement to enter into force. Countries that had not yet ratified that instrument were encouraged to do so promptly.

105. As global warming must be maintained beneath the threshold of 1.5 degrees Celsius, high carbon emitters must work to fulfil their commitments. Full

implementation of the Sendai Framework was also important in that regard. Enhanced financial cooperation would also be required to support domestic efforts to build resilience and strengthen capacity. Given the ongoing difficulties many countries faced in accessing climate finance, it was paramount and urgent for the related procedures to be simplified. His Government had already taken a step in the right direction by signing an agreement with the Green Climate Fund on privileges and immunities in September 2016.

106. The oceans were an integral pillar of the 2030 Agenda: not only were they the world's largest carbon sink but they also served a vital economic and cultural role. In that context, Sustainable Development Goal 14 must be implemented to foster the health, productivity and resilience of the oceans and seas for the future.

107. **Mr. Chinyonga** (Zambia) said that his country placed a high premium on the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, as they were fundamental for inclusive economic growth, poverty reduction, employment creation and welfare security. To that end, a conducive and supportive environment would be required, with holistic, equitable and forward-looking interventions, especially for least developed countries which had greater vulnerability to global economic downturns.

108. The Sustainable Development Goals must be integrated into national policies while balancing the three dimensions of sustainable development. The adoption of the Goals was timely, as his country was finalizing its Seventh National Development Plan to run from 2017 to 2021. Accordingly, Zambia would incorporate the Goals and the African Union Agenda 2063, among other instruments, into its development plans. Furthermore, an interdependent and holistic approach to development must be adopted and implementation of the 2030 Agenda must occur at the local, regional and national levels where links between cross-cutting priorities would be clearer. Stakeholders must be fully involved in the implementation process.

109. Climate-related challenges were impeding sustainable development and negatively impacting economic growth in his country through reduced crop yields. Weather patterns had changed, causing droughts and flooding and affecting food security. Low water levels were also impacting power generation and

reducing the energy supply for productive sectors. Unless climate change was addressed, the 2030 Agenda could not be fully realized. Hence the need to bring together both the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication efforts.

110. His Government had signed the Paris Agreement in September 2016, having formulated the nationally determined contribution for its implementation and also having put in place a national policy on climate change. The entry into force of the Paris Agreement was a historic turning point in global efforts to address climate change, and the Marrakesh Climate Change Conference in November 2016 should expedite the implementation of the Agreement. Providing financial support to developing countries to implement their intended nationally determined contributions must be a priority at the Marrakesh Conference to achieve the goal of limiting climate warming to two degrees Celsius. Through collective implementation of the Paris Agreement, developing countries would foster climate resilience and transition towards low greenhouse gas emission development.

111. **Mr. Poudel Chhetri** (Nepal) said that it was critical to include the three pillars of sustainable development in a holistic and balanced manner not only in national plans and policies but also within the United Nations system. The importance of timely, full and effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda could not be overemphasized in the context of the outcomes of all previous conferences on sustainable development, which must be linked with the Sustainable Development Goals. The mixed experience of implementing the Millennium Development Goals must be formative henceforth. A plan for the 2030 Agenda with adequate means of implementation should focus on the eradication of poverty and inequality, especially in countries in special situations.

112. Climate change represented a great challenge to development that had not only aggravated existing problems but had also made development costlier. Countries in special situations were the most affected by the impact of climate change and they required more international cooperation for their development. His country expressed solidarity with small island developing States and underscored the need to acknowledge the link between mountains and seas.

Mountainous countries continued to face problems such as avalanches, glacial outbursts, floods and landslides, severely affecting centuries-old unique mountain lifestyles. It was critical to save mountain ecosystems through the implementation of the Paris Agreement, which had already been ratified by his country.

113. Enhanced partnerships were needed for disaster risk reduction and building resilience. In that regard the Sendai Framework must be effectively implemented in a balanced manner in conjunction with the instruments that had recognized the special needs and circumstances of vulnerable countries. Capacity-building would be critical for countries in the South, and the earthquakes that had struck Nepal in 2015 had provided a new perspective on the meaning of local resilience, which should permeate all development efforts.

114. His country underscored the importance of clean, renewable energy and was eager to use its immense hydropower potential for the benefit of the South Asian region. After all, sustainable development would be achieved only when ways and means were made sustainable.

115. **Mr. Al-Hayani** (Iraq) said that even in the face of the decline in economic growth brought about by the vicious assault on Iraq by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), his country was looking into ways to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. Under the Paris Agreement, the developed States were obligated to help more vulnerable States address the effects of climate change. The measures taken by some members of the international community towards achieving the goal of limiting global temperature rise to 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels were therefore welcome.

116. Iraq had an ambitious plan to reduce emissions by 14 per cent by the year 2035, and had been an early adopter of clean energy, carbon management and the expansion of green spaces. It was also planning to introduce petroleum gas for automobiles and convert some of its electricity plants into combined-cycle plants. However, given current security concerns, implementation of such plans was secondary to the imperative of fighting ISIL. As it was, Iraq had been responsible for less than 0.2 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions between 1990 and 2011.

Addressing climate change would require a collective international effort based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. His country looked forward to taking part in the Marrakesh Climate Change Conference in November 2016.

117. **Ms. Sigurdardottir** (Iceland) said that the 2030 Agenda had been a major achievement, and that the Sustainable Development Goals would be incorporated into her country's new policy on international development cooperation for the period 2017 to 2021, which was presently being drafted. In that context, her country was focusing on three key areas: the development of social infrastructure, the sustainable use of natural resources and work towards peace, with humanitarian assistance playing a key role. Gender equality and environmental sustainability were also important cross-cutting issues that had been taken into account.

118. Her country recognized the universal, interlinked nature of all of the Sustainable Development Goals and aimed to achieve each one. Nonetheless, there were four priority areas for Iceland. First, land restoration was a natural priority, as legislation to halt soil erosion had been adopted over the previous century, and degradation had been successfully halted in many areas. That know-how had begun to be transferred to developing countries in 2010 through the Land Restoration Training Programme of the United Nations University. Iceland and Namibia had led a Group of Friends on Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought. Her delegation also wished to stress the importance of reaching Sustainable Development Goal target 15.3 on a land-degradation neutral world by 2030. That would speed the ability of land-dependent populations to reach other Sustainable Development Goal targets pertaining to food, water and energy supplies, poverty eradication and the empowerment of women and girls.

119. Second, sustainable use of marine resources through science-based management remained a backbone of her country's economy and a clear focus of its foreign policy. Iceland had shared its expertise for almost 20 years through the United Nations University Fisheries Training Programme and fully supported the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 on oceans. Good coordination was of paramount importance between different United

Nations oceans-related processes, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and relevant parts of the Secretariat, to ensure consistency in supporting implementation, follow-up and review for Goal 14.

120. Third, her country placed great importance on access to clean and renewable energy in tackling the climate challenge and combating poverty. Iceland had begun its green energy transition decades earlier and continued to assist other countries, including through the United Nations University Geothermal Training Programme. Renewable energy was increasingly competitive with traditional energy sources, and therefore cooperation must be strengthened to achieve universal access to modern energy services. Her country was cooperating with different actors in that field, including the World Bank and Sustainable Energy for All.

121. Fourth, gender equality and women's human rights must be mainstreamed into all sustainable development discussions and actions. The full and meaningful participation and representation of women in all endeavours was a prerequisite to the success of the 2030 Agenda. In that context, her country had particularly focused on engaging men and boys in promoting gender equality. It was a point of pride that the youngest member of the United Nations University in Iceland was dedicated to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in developing countries and post-conflict societies through research and education.

122. **Mr. Al-Zaabi** (United Arab Emirates) said that the United Arab Emirates had incorporated the targets and indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals into its Vision 2021 plan, which involved the private sector in all aspects of the sustainable development process. His country had established a new fund to support renewable energy projects in small island developing States in the Caribbean. In October 2016, his Government would be hosting the fourteenth session of the global round table for the United Nations Environment Programme finance initiative, and, in January 2017, it would once again be hosting Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week, which would include an eco-waste summit and the award of the Zayed Future Energy Prize.

123. Stressing the importance of involving youth in the sustainable development agenda, particularly given the rise in unemployment and the spread of extremist ideologies, he said that the newly appointed Minister for Youth Affairs had convened a national dialogue on youth.

124. Infrastructure development in the United Arab Emirates had greatly improved sanitation, roads and communications, laying the groundwork for economic diversification and sustainability. He invited delegates to visit his Government's official portal for more information.

125. **Mr. Annakou** (Libya) said that effective means of implementation were needed to turn words into actions. Above all, that meant adequate financing. The developed States needed to fulfil their obligations with respect to official development assistance, technology transfer, global partnerships and involvement of the private sector.

126. Perhaps the greatest challenge to development was to be found in threats to security. Confronting terrorism needed to go beyond the surface manifestations and address the root causes with a multifaceted economic, political, cultural, social and security approach. His country was undergoing a difficult transitional stage during which it needed the assistance of friendly States to restore security and stability. In particular, it needed the help of its neighbours to secure shared borders. Developed States that were being affected by the waves of illegal immigration across the Mediterranean Sea had an interest in stemming the flow at the source by enabling development in the countries of origin.

127. Finally, he urged the countries into which Libyan assets had been smuggled under the previous regime to assist his Government in retrieving them so that they could be put to use in advancing development plans for Libya.

128. **Mr. Taula** (New Zealand) said that his country supported the implementation of the Samoa Pathway and continued to advocate strongly on issues surrounding small island developing States; significant steps had been taken in recognition of their development priorities between 2014 and 2016. The successful third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Apia in 2014, had

highlighted the challenges and opportunities they faced. An international political commitment to sustainable development had been secured and the Samoa Pathway, containing a 10-year agenda, had been confirmed. That Conference had highlighted the issues critical to the sustainable development of small island developing States, with environmental issues and the impact of climate change strongly to the fore.

129. Since the Apia Conference, many priority issues of small island developing States had been recognized within international agreements, which highlighted their financing challenges and incorporated climate change, oceans and energy. His country had ratified the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and was committed to supporting clean, affordable and renewable energy.

130. In June 2016, New Zealand and the European Union had co-hosted the Pacific Energy Conference, during which donors had committed over \$690 million for sustainable energy projects in the Pacific. New Zealand and the European Union had also issued a Joint Declaration of Cooperation on a Pacific Partnership for Sustainable Energy, clearly signalling a commitment to close cooperation on renewable energy in the region. His country attached importance to tangible outcomes from those agreements and tracking implementation without excessive bureaucracy that could otherwise overwhelm small island developing States' systems. Furthermore, the Sustainable Development Goals and Samoa Pathway must be integrated into local planning frameworks that took country-level priorities into account. Indicators that developing countries could measure and simple, nimble and effective United Nations review mechanisms were needed.

131. New Zealand supported the joint study under way by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the United Nations Development Programme into small island developing States' financing challenges, which should conclude by mid-2017. His country took seriously the commitment to leave no one behind and would continue actively and constructively raising the unique challenges faced by small island developing States and delivering tangible results.

132. **Ms. Simonyan** (Armenia) said that her country welcomed the efforts of the United Nations system to

effectively mainstream the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development as a means of assisting Member States with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals would require the structural causes of poverty and inequality to be addressed. Accordingly, Armenia had revisited its poverty reduction strategy to place greater focus on the development of human capital.

133. Enhancing the potential to implement new skills and solutions would be critical in order to implement the ambitious Agenda. In co-creating development solutions, her country continued to expand its reach among young innovators and social entrepreneurs in order to enhance citizen engagement, building upon the progress of several projects implemented with development partners. Through better use of the potential of the private sector, a fundamental difference could be made to improve access to quality education and tackle financial illiteracy, ensuring increased access to banking and finance for youth and facilitating better business planning. The younger generation had been enhancing its partnership with various stakeholders, including the diaspora fellows, and was capitalizing on education and innovation-oriented pilot projects.

134. Financing for development was also important in order to better mobilize and more effectively use both financial and non-financial resources. While public finance remained the major source of development funding, its role was evolving and new forms of blended government and donor-raised money were being increasingly explored to increase leveraging from the private sector, especially in lower-middle income countries. Addressing the issue of project bankability and ensuring public-private financing solutions would be critical to delivering on the sustainable development commitments. Existing external and local resources must be properly used to leverage comparative advantage and boost productive capacity and employment. Her country supported discussions on new themes and solutions targeting better use of private sector potential and public-private partnerships in order to enhance bankability, entrepreneurship and innovation in all economic sectors.

135. As the pillars of development, human rights, humanitarian assistance, peace and security must be drawn together in a comprehensive, forward-looking strategy to meet the needs of the most vulnerable. There was considerable evidence of a severe humanitarian crisis amidst the turbulence in many world regions and a pressing need to improve humanitarian coordination and response. The system must be adaptable and able to deliver adequate responses, a priority that must be urgently assessed against the backdrop of a detrimental decrease in resources and the unprecedented rise of humanitarian challenges.

136. The global displacement crisis continued to cause risks and instabilities requiring a collective global response, with better cooperation in areas such as border management, migration and the fight against human trafficking. Armenia was deeply concerned and closely following the ongoing refugee crisis: over 20,000 displaced persons had sought protection there in recent years and it was the third largest recipient of Syrian refugees per capita in Europe. Facilitated integration and settlement programmes for the displaced continued to be implemented and her country duly acknowledged the invaluable role of international institutions, the non-governmental sector and diaspora organizations for the support provided to refugees.

137. It would be critical to more closely examine the role of regional and sub-regional organizations in addressing the humanitarian-development nexus, as they were often better informed about local circumstances and their own resources and financing. To improve the quality of response, the United Nations system must continue to prioritize the advancement of its normative and operational capacity with a view to strengthening and adapting its preventive function and building greater resilience. Field missions remained important for detecting deteriorating situations and alerting the Organization to act; its reputation was judged not by its words but by the protection delivered on the ground.

138. The role of the United Nations and the high-level political forum would be central to reviewing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Reliable, relevant and valid data for measuring progress must be available for any follow-up and review mechanism to succeed, and therefore the role of national statistical

agencies would be of the utmost importance. Similarly, international cooperation must be strengthened to improve statistical capacity.

139. Lastly, in order to implement the 2030 Agenda and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, development must be inclusive and diversity must be viewed as a source of strength, as policies of exclusion and discrimination undermined the sustainability of economic and social development. A commitment to deliver on a global partnership by all would ensure structural transformations for countries with specific developmental needs.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.